Ministry of Environment

Annual Report for 2014-15

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Letters of Transmittal

Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield,
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

The Government of Saskatchewan is moving forward on a path of steady growth and is committed to creating a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people. The Ministry is aligned with that commitment, and I am pleased to report on key initiatives and progress that supported government direction in the 2014-15 year.

The Ministry of Environment is meeting the challenges of a growing province. A few key highlights and achievements of the 2014-15 year include:

- The Saskatchewan Environmental Code, a new approach that will allow industry and communities the flexibility to come up with innovative solutions to achieve or surpass clearly-defined environmental outcomes. The first edition of the code takes effect in 2015 and allows the Ministry to focus its resources on activities that pose the greatest environmental risks.

- Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and our stakeholders to deliver the new Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy, which protects important ecological values while providing agricultural lessees with opportunities to purchase land designated under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. *The Conservation Easements Act* was also updated to provide greater protection to land with moderate or high ecological value. A portion of the revenue from those sales will support programs and conservation projects.

The outcomes of the Ministry's Plan for 2014-15 will help support the Government's plan for sustaining growth by maintaining our commitment to sustainable natural resources. This will help us manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province, its people and its future.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Cox
Minister of Environment

The Honourable Herb Cox
Minister of Environment

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015. I acknowledge responsibility for this report and declare that the information contained within this report is complete, accurate and reliable. I further acknowledge responsibility for the financial administration and management control of the Ministry of Environment.

Cam Swan
Deputy Minister of Environment

Introduction

This annual report for the Ministry of Environment presents the Ministry's results on activities and outcomes for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015. It reports to the public and elected officials on public commitments made and other key accomplishments of the Ministry.

A renewed vision in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* was introduced in October 2012. The 2014-15 Annual Report will be presented in relation to this vision and the goals that guided the development of the Ministry of Environment's Plan for 2014-15.

Results are provided on publicly committed strategies, actions and performance measures identified in 2014-15.

The report also demonstrates progress made on Government commitments as stated in the Government Direction for 2014-15: Steady Growth, throne speeches, and other commitments and activities of the Ministry.

The annual report demonstrates the Ministry of Environment's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public.

Alignment with Government's Direction

The Ministry's activities in 2014-15 align with Government's vision and four goals:

Our Government's Vision

To be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Government's Goals

- Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people.
- Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.
- Meeting the challenges of growth.
- Delivering responsive and responsible government.

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of Government's four goals.

Key to the Government's goal of sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people, the Ministry continues to make progress on delivering a results-based model for environmental regulation, known as results-based regulation (RBR) in Saskatchewan.

Our results-based model and new compliance tools are precedent-setting in Canada. The Saskatchewan Environmental Code is the cornerstone of the Ministry's new approach to environmental regulation, designed to support the government's focus on client-centred service that fosters innovation, enhances environmental protection and supports the province's growing economy. The first edition of the code takes full effect in June 2015 and allows the Ministry to focus its resources on activities that pose the greatest environmental risks.

In support of the goal to secure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people, the Ministry helps maintain healthy air, land, water and habitat. Land management that balances the need for growth with responsible stewardship is a priority for the Ministry. Working with our colleagues at the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment proclaimed and announced the new *Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* (WHPA) and amendments to *The Conservation Easements Act*. Implementation of these new measures – which received widespread support from conservation and agriculture stakeholder groups – provides agricultural lessees in southern Saskatchewan with an opportunity to purchase WHPA lands assessed to have moderate or lower ecological value. Lands with high ecological value will not be sold.

The Ministry continues to enhance co-operation among intergovernmental agencies in environmental and resource management by working with various federal and provincial agencies to minimize duplication and maximize co-operation in environmental regulation, and also by working co-operatively with municipalities and First Nations and Métis people in environmental and resource management.

Actions for sustaining growth include the development of the province-wide Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP). MMRP is a cost-sharing program between businesses and municipalities to help pay for the collection and recycling of household packaging and paper materials. The Ministry is working through the recent amendments to the MMRP and will re-launch it in 2015.

Actions for securing a better quality of life include preventing and reducing the health risks to people and the environment through a commitment to assessing and improving environmental performance. Progress on this is demonstrated through such measures as the Air Quality Index and the establishment of regional air zones.

Further progress was made in 2014-15 with stakeholders and partners in the Boreal Watershed Management Strategy, which was established to assess and maintain the ecological integrity of Saskatchewan's northern watersheds. *The Wildlife Act* was amended to increase penalties for illegal hunting, including a clause that ensures that any hunter convicted of three serious wildlife offences will be banned for life from hunting in Saskatchewan. This achievement honoured a commitment made in the 2014 Speech from the Throne.

As the Ministry continues to advance a client-centric, outcomes-based approach aimed at meeting public service needs and expectations, it has made substantive progress in delivering a responsive and responsible government. The Ministry plays a key role in providing a variety of services to the public and a current priority is ongoing assessment and recommendations of client support capacity requirements across the Ministry's field offices to address evolving requirements to deliver on our mandate.

The Ministry continues to improve its effectiveness and efficiency through Lean activities, core program review, streamlined processes and enhanced public information.

Ministry Overview

The mandate of the Ministry of Environment is to work with Saskatchewan stakeholders to protect our water, air and natural resources to achieve a high environmental standard and to support sustainable development in the use of these resources. The Ministry manages our province's diverse landscapes and our renewable natural resources in a manner that supports a healthy environment, a growing economy and strong, vibrant communities.

The Ministry's divisional structure and key lines of business (i.e. branches) are outlined as follows:

- **Executive Administration** - includes Communication Services;
- **Resource Management and Compliance Division** – comprises Compliance and Field Services, Fish and Wildlife, Forest Service and Landscape Stewardship;
- **Environmental Protection and Audit Division** – comprises Environmental Assessment, Environmental Protection, RBR and Code Management, Wildfire Management, Technical Resources and Climate Change; and
- **Environmental Support Division** – comprises Finance and Administration and Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement.

Communication Services supports the Ministry's goals and objectives by identifying, planning, developing and implementing communication strategies, programs and initiatives. Responsibilities include correspondence and referrals, legislative services, public and media services, production and more recently, freedom of information and protection of privacy.

Compliance and Field Services develops and delivers province-wide compliance and field enforcement programs based on the Ministry's compliance strategy and risk assessment, to protect the environment and manage natural resource use. This compliance strategy emphasizes education and awareness and a significant part of the program work is building a collaborative approach to compliance. The branch maintains a hazardous spill emergency response unit and an enforcement call centre and delivers compliance and enforcement services for: Fish and Wildlife; Landscape Stewardship; Environmental Protection; Forest Service; and Wildfire Management branches as well as for Parks Culture and Sport and the Water Security Agency through shared-services agreements.

Fish and Wildlife conserves, manages and sustains the allocation of fish, wildlife and biodiversity in the province to remain available for the recreational, social and economic benefit of Saskatchewan people. The branch delivers programs such as the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre (SKCDC), the South of the Divide project and the Boreal Caribou project through collaborative stewardship

initiatives with a network of partners in industry, environmental non-government organizations, academia and other government agencies.

Forest Service delivers an ecosystem-based approach to managing provincial forests sustainably through the licensing of forest products and the oversight of forest industry planning, harvesting and forest renewal. It also collects Crown dues and fees from harvested forest products, monitors and controls damage to forests from insects and disease, renews historically depleted forest lands, and provides forest inventory and resource analysis services.

Landscape Stewardship (which comprises Lands and Aboriginal Affairs sections) develops, manages, allocates and designates all Crown land administered by the Ministry, with a focus on the integration of First Nations and Métis interests and rights into environmental and resource management programs and services.

Lands delivers programs for the management of Crown resource land to maintain healthy ecosystems, including designation of protected areas to ensure sustainable use and protection of key landscapes and associated resources through the province's Representative Areas Network (RAN) program. It issues leases, licences, easements and permits to individuals, groups, industry and First Nations and Métis people for specific purposes such as: recreational cabins, cottage subdivisions, trapping cabins, sand and gravel extraction, agricultural purposes, industrial or commercial purposes, mining and exploration activities, outfitting camps, church camps, and a variety of other uses.

Aboriginal Affairs supports the Ministry in First Nations and Métis community engagement and fulfilling legal obligations to consult. Consultation enhances environmental management outcomes through policy development, research and analysis, development of internal tools and resources, inter-ministry, inter-governmental co-ordination and direct support of Ministry initiatives.

Environmental Assessment manages the Government's environmental impact assessment process. This process includes screening projects that require review based on the potential for significant environmental impacts or public concern regarding potential environmental changes. This ensures that all relevant information is considered, including the views of other government ministries and the public.

Environmental Protection develops, manages and delivers environmental protection programs in the areas of mining operations, industrial and commercial operations, landfills, hazardous materials spills and environmental emergencies, impacted (contaminated) sites, hazardous substances and waste, dangerous goods storage and waste minimization. The branch manages waste minimization programs that involve industry stewardship and recycling programs including scrap tires, used oil, electronic waste, waste paint and beverage containers.

Results-Based Regulation (RBR) and Code Management establishes policies and procedures for the development of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code (code) and oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of the code. The branch leads the Ministry's move to an online business environment, including online services and client support, as well as the longer term strategy for environmental information management across the Ministry. The branch was also responsible for launching the new compliance audit program, working to transfer knowledge to staff and stakeholders regarding the shift to the RBR approach, and in understanding new regulatory tools such as the code, and requirements to achieve compliance.

Wildfire Management plans and delivers risk-informed forest fire management activities, including detection, preparedness, suppression and protection of values at risk. It develops and leads the delivery of the province-wide wildfire safety and operational training programs, maintains an aerial firefighting fleet, a radio communications network and meteorological services. It also conducts public wildfire awareness, risk mitigation, educational programs and assists other jurisdictions with wildfire suppression.

Technical Resources includes the Air Science and Monitoring Unit, Environmental Standards Unit, Science Support Unit, Spatial Information Management and Data Information and Access. The branch provides leadership and support on complex environmental issues, including scientific and technical expertise throughout the Ministry, and co-ordinates federal-provincial research and standards development. It also delivers the air quality program, assisting branches in regulating air contaminant emissions.

Climate Change develops the policy and regulatory framework for reducing GHGs and other policy and program initiatives to promote mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The climate change regulatory framework positions the province to participate in new economic development and investment initiatives including carbon capture and storage, low carbon energy sources, adaptation initiatives and offset market development.

Finance and Administration provides accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, financial systems management, budgeting, transaction processing and internal auditing services for the Ministry in addition to contract advice, mailroom services and property management services. The Client Service Office (CSO), currently part of Finance and Administration, serves as the initial point of contact for clients seeking application

assistance and delivers the general inquiries and registry services functions on behalf of the Ministry.

Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement (SPPI), through its Business Planning and Support unit, provides strategic planning support to the Ministry through the annual strategic plan, performance measures and management, environmental scan, Lean, program review, risk assessments and associated analyses to establish strategic direction and priorities. It also provides overall management of the Ministry's Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) program and provides co-ordination of the Ministry's safety management system.

Through the data management unit, SPPI provides business analysis, business and enterprise architecture, business solution assessment, data standards and acquisition services for the ministry.

The Ministry of Environment administers 19 pieces of legislation and associated regulations designed to ensure sustainable development and effective pollution prevention and resource management throughout the province. Some of the legislation includes:

- *The Environmental Assessment Act*
- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*
- *The Forest Resources Management Act*
- *The Prairie and Fires Act, 1982*
- *The Wildlife Act, 1998*
- *The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994*
- *The Provincial Lands Act*

As the Ministry moves towards an RBR model, a number of these acts and regulations come into effect after April 1, 2015 (see Appendix B for a description of the legislation).

The Ministry maintains 43 offices located in communities throughout the province and delivers a broad range of programs. In 2014-15, the Ministry of Environment's full time equivalent (FTE) budgeted allocation was 866.4. The actual FTE utilization was 851.1, a variance of 15.3 FTEs. The variance between budgeted and actual FTEs was the net result of vacancies associated with the hiring freeze offset by pressures such as overtime, student utilization and the delay in transferring the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund to an independent agency.

Saskatchewan Adopts New Environmental Code

The province embarked on a significant and innovative journey in 2014 with the adoption of the new Saskatchewan Environmental Code, an initiative designed to protect the environment while helping to meet the challenges of economic growth. The code is the first of its kind in Canada and the cornerstone of the province's new results-based approach to environmental regulation.

The first edition of the code includes 16 chapters addressing diverse areas such as air quality, environmentally impacted sites, water management and natural resources protection. The code clearly defines required environmental outcomes for activities related to each of these particular areas, empowering operators and organizations to determine how those results can best be achieved or surpassed.

"The Saskatchewan Environmental Code is innovative, forward-looking and based on a streamlined results-based regulatory framework," said Thon Phommavong, Executive Director of the Ministry's Results-Based Regulation and Code Management Branch. "With environmental protection at its foundation, the code will enable municipalities and industry to keep pace with growth and ensure Saskatchewan's environment remains healthy."

Under the code, the emphasis will be on environmental results rather than bureaucratic process, providing project proponents with the flexibility to apply innovative solutions, and allowing the Ministry of Environment to focus on activities of greatest environmental risk.

Chapters dealing with forest management came into force on January 5, 2015 upon proclamation of the *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2010*. The remaining chapters came into effect on June 1, 2015 with the proclamation of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*. Activities not included in the first edition of the code will continue to be regulated as before.

> *"The code is innovative, forward-looking and based on a streamlined results-based regulatory framework."*
>
> *- Thon Phommavong, Executive Director, RBR and Code Management*

Explore this report for more information about the code and how the province ensures environmental protection through audits and other compliance tools.

Government of Saskatchewan

Province Strengthens Hunting Laws with Amendments to Wildlife Act

"Our province has an abundance of natural resources to enjoy, and we want to keep it that way."

- Lyle Saigeon, Executive Director, Fish and Wildlife

Conservation officers completed more than 60,000 hunting, angling and other environmental checks to ensure Saskatchewan's laws are followed. Read more on pages 26 and 27.

New legislation announced in 2014 is designed to enhance wildlife protection in Saskatchewan by increasing the severity of hunting penalties.

Amendments to *The Wildlife Act* ensure that:

- The most serious conservation offences will carry an automatic two-year suspension;
- People who fail to pay wildlife-related fines will be prohibited from buying a licence until their fines are paid;
- People who are suspended from hunting activities in another jurisdiction will not be able to purchase a licence in Saskatchewan;
- Those convicted on three separate occasions for wildlife offences will have a lifetime ban, prohibiting the purchase of hunting licences; and
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, people who are in arrears for maintenance payments will be denied the opportunity to purchase a hunting or angling licence.

The Act also lengthens the time conservation officers have to bring wildlife violation charges forward, from two years to three years. Wildlife violations are challenging to investigate because they often occur in unpopulated areas, and poaching schemes are becoming more sophisticated and difficult to identify.

"Our province has an abundance of natural resources to enjoy, and we want to keep it that way," said Lyle Saigeon, Executive Director of the Ministry's Fish and Wildlife Branch. "This new legislation sends an important message about adhering to wildlife laws in Saskatchewan and will help protect our resources for those who want to enjoy them legally."

The Act will also ensure scientific surveys, especially those involving species at risk, will be carried out in a responsible and undisruptive manner. Properly conducted wildlife surveys and reliable data submissions are vital tools in the assessment, management and protection of Saskatchewan's wildlife populations and their habitat.

Government of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan and Alberta Renew Agreement to Combat Mountain Pine Beetle

The Government of Saskatchewan has a concise but rather strong message for the mountain pine beetle: *stay out!*

To reinforce that notion, the province renewed its commitment to protecting Saskatchewan's northern pine forests by signing a second three-year agreement with Alberta that will see the two provinces continuing to work together on mountain pine beetle management. Saskatchewan will provide $1.25 million in 2015 to help control the outbreak in Alberta, and to prevent the spread into Saskatchewan's northern forest.

The funding will be used to support mountain pine beetle control actions in northern Alberta. Actions include enhanced surveillance and monitoring, removal of infested trees, and research and modelling to effectively direct program efforts. Saskatchewan and Alberta's original agreement was signed in 2011.

"This renewed agreement with Alberta is the best way to protect Saskatchewan's forest from mountain pine beetle," said Bob Wynes, Executive Director of the Ministry's Forest Service Branch. "Given that forests have substantial environmental, economic and social value, this investment is important to both provinces."

The mountain pine beetle outbreak has killed more than 18 million hectares of lodgepole pine forest (about five times the size of Vancouver Island) in British Columbia and has spread across Alberta, to within about 120 kilometres of the Saskatchewan border. Research has confirmed that the beetle can survive in jack pine, putting forests in northern Saskatchewan at risk.

While surveys conducted in the fall of 2014 found no mountain pine beetles in Saskatchewan's northwest, there has been an established population in the Cypress Hills region of the province's southwest. The Ministry of Environment tracks this population and collaborates with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport on its management.

> *"This renewed agreement with Alberta is the best way to protect Saskatchewan's forest from mountain pine beetle."*
>
> *- Bob Wynes, Executive Director, Forest Service*

See page 29 and 30 of this report for more information on how the Ministry of Environment maintains productive and biologically diverse forests through renewal and protection.

Government of Saskatchewan

Progress in 2014-15

Government Goal: Sustaining Growth and Opportunities for Saskatchewan People

Strategy: Maximize economic benefits through the sustainable use of natural resources.

Key Actions and Results

Implement a results-based environmental regulatory model to improve protection of the environment

- The Ministry's results-based model and new compliance tools are precedent-setting in Canada. With the introduction of the new Saskatchewan Environmental Code and supporting legislation, the government initiated the compliance audit program within the Ministry of Environment to verify compliance to the new requirements.

- The Ministry initiated a pilot phase in 2014, during which the newly established Compliance Audit Unit collaborated with other branches to identify potential auditees and to assemble and train a pool of auditors with the requisite expertise to audit any and all regulated industries and municipalities across the province. Environmental compliance auditor training for permanent and pool auditors was completed in April 2014 with the program fully staffed in June 2014.

  Through the pilot phase, 16 pilot audit projects in a variety of sectors were conducted and the core elements of the audit program were tested and verified.

  Initial feedback confirmed the compliance audit program as a valuable tool for compliance assurance, with a majority of auditees stating in a post-audit questionnaire that they found the audit valuable to their organization.

- With the introduction of a results-based environmental regulatory model, various Ministry branches delivered a number of outreach activities for sharing and evaluating best practices with industry partners and stakeholders including:

  - Forest Service conducted a series of six workshops to forest industry clients in December 2014. Forest licence holders who did not have the opportunity to participate in the development of the chapters and standards indicated that the workshops were informative and assisted with their understanding of the code and its requirements;

  - Forest Service also conducted a tour of natural disturbances in Saskatchewan's boreal forest in September 2014 in partnership with the Foothills Research Institute (FRI), Mistik Management Ltd. and Wildfire Management. Research in the area of natural disturbances supports the continued refinement of the provincial forest management planning and operating plan code chapters; and

  - Technical Resources provided information on clean air regulatory changes and environmental protection plan requirements through Industrial Air Source Chapter presentations to the Saskatchewan Mining Association on March 23, 2015 and to the Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association on March 25, 2015.

- Climate Change Branch collaborated with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), selected oil companies and the Ministry of the Economy to develop draft associated gas conservation offset protocol. This included chairing the working group of CAPP, with Economy, to reduce flaring and venting at upstream oil and gas facilities; developing a performance agreement to identify and manage GHG emission reductions and examining flare gas power generation policies and projects with independent power producers, SaskPower and oil companies.

- As part of the transition to regulatory and operational change, the Ministry established flexible strategies for business continuity so that high-service delivery standards could be maintained. This client-centric approach included approvals to proceed on activities with tried and true environmental solutions. For example, the Ministry approved corrective action plans for major oil companies based on the well-understood solutions presented, and their low environmental risk. In addition, where applicable, changes throughout the Ministry were pilot tested with clients. For example, by soft launching a beta version of the online Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Standards, clients gained early access to an enhanced business tool and provided the Ministry with valuable feedback that ultimately improved the final web-based product.

- Ministry compliance planning involves engaging internal and external clients to assess compliance risk and prioritize compliance activities. Using a compliance model which uses tools including education, monitoring, inspections, audits, investigations, voluntary compliance and enforcement, the Ministry tracks compliance performance throughout the year. The Ministry compliance plan provides a strategic guide for branches to develop strategies and plans annually to increase environmental compliance.

Participate in inter-governmental forums at the technical and policy development level to help ensure that environmental protection and resource management programming and requirements are current, consistent and defendable

- The Ministry's Environmental Protection Branch is involved with: the *Environment Canada Metal Mining and Effluent Regulations (MMER)* 10-year review; the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) working group to develop environmental standards for nuclear facilities including uranium mines and mills; and the Canadian Dam Association with respect to tailings impoundments with continued information sharing for improving regulatory oversight and lessons learned from the Mount Polley incident in British Columbia.
- The Environmental Assessment and Landscape Stewardship branches continue to build a positive working relationship with industry partners such as the Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration and Government Advisory Committee (SMEGAC) and the Saskatchewan Petroleum Industry/Government Environment Committee (SPIGEC) through ongoing meetings to gather feedback and inform revision of Oil and Gas Guidelines. In 2014-15, the Ministry reviewed 6,580 oil, gas and mineral exploration and development projects.
- Saskatchewan participates in Canada's National Forest Inventory (NFI) through work with the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). The NFI monitors a network of 20,000 sampling points across Canada on a 10-year re-measurement cycle to provide accurate and consistent information on the state and sustainable development of Canada's forests. The Ministry and Natural Resources Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012-13 on a multi-year project to complete the first re-measurement of the NFI. During 2014-15, data for 103 photo plots and eight ground plots were provided to NRCan-CFS in December 2014 and March 2015, respectively. Forest Service supported Ministry executives' involvement in the following committees associated with CCFM:
  - CCFM Intergovernmental Network;
  - Climate change task force;
  - Aboriginal participation sub-committee; and
  - Assistant Deputy Minister Innovation Committee
- The Ministry, through its Climate Change Branch, worked with industry associations and the Ministry of the Economy to compile and analyze facility GHG emission data and to support development of sector-by-sector federal performance standards. Work included participation in federal-provincial meetings and bilateral meetings with stakeholders to address technical and policy issues such as potential incentives for renewable energy development, co-generation, and opportunities for GHG emission reductions in the upstream oil and gas industry, oil refining, potash and fertilizers, and pulp and paper.

Implement the Saskatchewan Environmental Code to promote innovative new tools and adopt best practices in environmental management for Saskatchewan and allow proponents to use alternative solutions and technologies for achieving compliance

- On November 3, 2014, the Minister announced the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, a new approach that will allow industry and communities the flexibility to come up with innovative solutions to achieve or surpass clearly-defined environmental outcomes that would come into effect in two parts:
  - Amendments to *The Forest Resources Management Act*, related regulations and code chapters would come into effect on January 5, 2015; and
  - *The Environmental Management Protection Act, 2010*, related regulations and code chapters would come into force on June 1, 2015.

  The code, the first of its kind in Canada, promotes the ability to use innovative new tools and adoption of best practices in environmental management for Saskatchewan.

  The five forestry chapters and standards that came into effect on January 5, 2015 address forest management planning, operational planning, scaling of forest products, regeneration assessments and data submission and provide a results-based regulatory model to improve environment and resource management. Prior to the modernization of *The Environmental Assessment Act* in 2012 and *The Forest Resources Management Act*, forest management plans required separate approvals by the Environmental Assessment Branch and the Forest Service Branch.
- As part of the overall awareness engagement process for the implementation of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, the Ministry drafted a comprehensive guide for the management of impacted sites. The guide combines legislative, code and standard requirements along with technical guidance into one document. The document is intended for impacted sites practitioners and relevant industry sectors.

  The draft guidelines were completed and circulated to key industry sectors for review. The review was positive and the Ministry is making edits to reflect the comments from industry and qualified professionals. The guide will establish clear performance expectations for the management of impacted sites.

  For provisions of *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases* regulations, the Climate Change

Branch continued consultations with key industries and other stakeholders about technical guidance documents for GHG reporting.

Feedback from stakeholders was incorporated in the economic analysis and modelling to revise the draft GHG regulations, and support negotiation of a federal-provincial equivalency agreement on the coal-fired electricity regulations.

Continue to seek service quality improvements that will increase efficiency and effectiveness in delivering environmental assessments in Saskatchewan

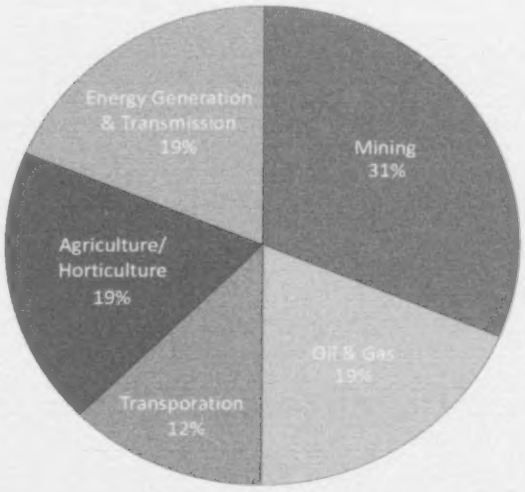
- The environmental assessment (EA) process evaluates proposed projects, which addresses potential environmental issues associated with the development and ensures that all relevant information is considered including the views of government ministries and the public. The EA process typically follows steps and activities that include proposal development, application, screening, scoping, impact assessment, review, public comment and a final decision by the Minister of Environment.

  The change to an RBR framework resulted in evaluation and revisions to the EA process. These changes and revisions mean increased collaboration and co-ordination between government agencies. In addition, the EA process focuses resources on high-risk projects with expedited timeslines for EA notices. Achievement of short-term outcomes include:

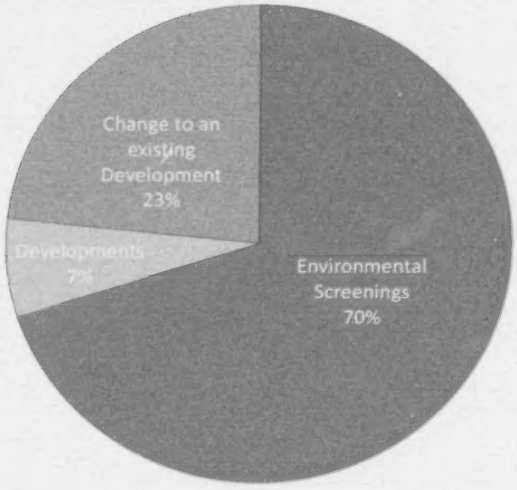
  - number of low-risk applications received during 2014-15 fiscal year was 51 per cent lower than prior to EA process revisions;
  - reduced branch time to complete reviews by more than 50 per cent;
  - reduced cost to Ministry of posting notices by nearly $20,000 for the 2014-15 fiscal year; and
  - positive feedback from internal and external clients on EA process changes.

- Environmental Assessment Branch projects submitted and reviewed in 2014-15 by administrative type and industry sector are represented in the graphs.

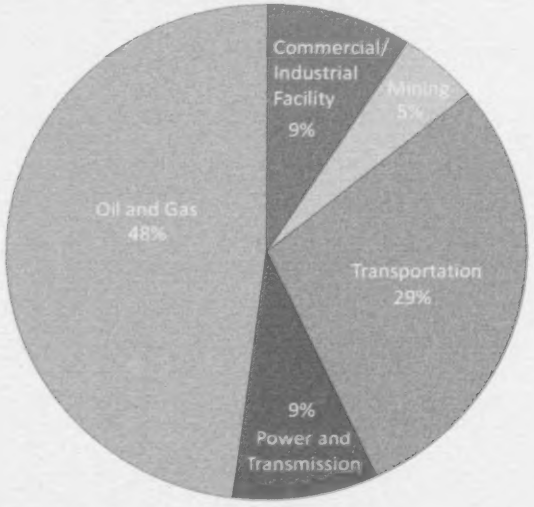
Active Files by Sector, 2014-15



New Applications by File Type, 2014-15



New Screenings by Sector, 2014-15



- As a result of a review of the EA program in 2014-15 using the Core Program Review process, the Government accepted four recommendations to advance environmental assessment including:
  - enhanced public engagement;
  - increased branch responsiveness to industry needs;
  - enhanced EA co-ordination across internal and external jurisdictions; and
  - optimization of internal technical review processes.
- Public participation guidelines have been finalized and are posted on the Environmental Assessment Branch website. The guidelines will allow for improved public participation and submitted content during public review to aid in decision-making. Additional opportunities for targeted engagement of stakeholders potentially impacted by developments such as rural municipalities are also being undertaken. This includes direct notifications of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and public review periods.

Implement a harvest plan for fish and wildlife that supports commercial and recreational use

- The Ministry of Environment and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation developed a background document that identifies key issues for Saskatchewan hunters. A draft strategic framework for game management has been vetted with the Provincial Wildlife Advisory Committee and a game management plan is being developed to build specific actions from the broader framework to provide science-based guidance to wild game management in the province over the next 10 years. The plan is modeled on the stakeholder endorsed Fisheries Management Plan completed in 2010.

Work with municipalities and stakeholders across the province to engage in activities for economic benefits while protecting and conserving natural resources, and provide operational assurances for protection of values at risk

- With the introduction of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, the Ministry's RBR and Code Management Branch participated in, or hosted face-to-face workshops on regulatory change for stakeholder groups including the Saskatchewan Environmental Industry and Managers Association and made the presentations available on the Ministry's website for broader sharing. These workshops created opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions and generated interactive dialogue with Ministry executives and subject matter experts. As a result, the Ministry gains a better understanding of its clients and can improve its knowledge transfer materials and identify gaps in regulatory comprehension.
- The Environmental Assessment Branch conducted an industry survey on federal-provincial EA process co-ordination. Industry affirmed the need for reduced regulatory duplication on projects regulated by the province and the federal government. This information will inform provincial direction when working on co-ordination agreements with federal agencies. In addition, industry stakeholders were surveyed regarding the EA process evaluation. A large majority of industry clients report guidance material has improved and provides clarity on requirements.
- The Environmental Protection Branch supports the Ministry of Government Relations' Rapid Growth Communities Committee. The committee is currently studying the Weyburn-Estevan area and allows the Ministry of Environment to directly connect with municipal stakeholders. The committee also allows local decision-makers to access the right information from the participating ministries. The connections made will be long-term after the study is completed.
- The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) are members of a Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) Working Group created by the Ministry to engage municipalities and communicate with major business and municipal stakeholders. The working group is tasked with resolving outstanding issues related to their participation in the program as per their regulatory obligations.
- The Climate Change Branch worked with SUMA, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), City of Saskatoon, City of Regina, SaskPower and SaskEnergy to further establish a GHG reporting framework for communities. This included:
  - development of a draft performance agreement with the City of Saskatoon for reducing community GHG emissions;
  - development of a draft benchmarking framework with FCM and the Canadian Standards Association to quantify community GHG emissions; and
  - examination of offset protocols to quantify GHG emissions from community sources (e.g. landfills) to advance community GHG abatement projects.
- In an effort to combat unauthorized dumping of garbage on Crown and private land, the Ministry has established in 2014-15 a pilot project in the Prince Albert area. The project involves multiple stakeholders who have an interest in addressing this growing issue. A steering committee was established and stakeholders were engaged in December 2014. An action plan was developed that included an official project launch

planned for Earth Day, April 22, 2015. The plan focuses on raising public awareness and engagement and includes targeted messages and activities for school curriculum.

- With *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* (EMPA) and the Saskatchewan Environmental Code coming into force June 1, 2015, the shift towards a results-based regulatory framework will result in a change from an emphasis on rules and permits to a system focused on environmental results and outcomes.

- As part of these legislative changes, the Ministry will require decommissioning and reclamation (D&R) plans and financial assurance (FA) from all regulated industrial waste works facilities, which includes a variety of industries ranging from chemical plants to wood treatment facilities. This will be in addition to all mining operations which are already required to have D&R plans and FAs in place. FAs are financial guarantees provided by a proponent and are based on estimated costs to rehabilitate or restore the environment as a result of industrial activity. In 2013, with the onset of the RBR framework, the Ministry and the Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association (SPPA) achieved consensus on the required FA using an alternative approach to the "decommission tomorrow" scenario. FAs were established as Qualified Environmental Trusts in June 2014. FAs ultimately protect Saskatchewan taxpayers from any financial burdens associated with industrial operations.

- The current Forest Management Agreements (FMAs) for the Prince Albert FMA and Pasquia-Porcupine FMA allow for the licensees to enter into an alternative renewal funding agreement which provides a form of security in lieu of paying forest management fees. In 2014-15, Forest Service Branch staff worked with the FMA licensees to further enable this approach.

  The process included an initial Annual Review of Reforestation Expenses and Reforestation Trust Account Balances report. This report is the initial review of industry's reforestation expenses and account balances of all term supply licences (TSL) and forest management agreement (FMA) reforestation trust account holders. The purpose of this task is to annually review current reforestation rates and contributions to reforestation trust accounts and determine if they are at appropriate levels to cover industry's outstanding liabilities. Outstanding reforestation liabilities refers to any harvested blocks that have not yet received treatment, or that failed a regeneration assessment and were determined to be not sufficiently regenerated (NSR) and require further retreatment. Recommendations are made regarding appropriate fund levels to address outstanding reforestation liabilities. The most recent report was completed in November 2014.

- In 2014-15 Weyerhaeuser, a licensee on the Pasquia-Porcupine FMA, entered into an Alternative Renewal Agreement joining others such as Meadow Lake OSB, Norsask and Carrier, shareholders of the Prince Albert FMA, in utilizing this approach.

Promote a sustainable and marketable forest sector through forestry management agreements; enterprise-wide partnerships; allocation of wood fiber; diversification of forest products and services and encouraging the use of biomass

- During 2014-15, four industry forest management plans (FMPs) were under various stages of development, namely, the Prince Albert FMP, Pasquia-Porcupine FMP, Mistik FMP and the Northwest FMP. The Prince Albert and the Pasquia-Porcupine FMPs are expected to be completed and submitted to government during 2015-16. These planning processes accommodate forest management values fairly and consistently and provide a secure wood supply for the Carrier Big River sawmill and forestry employment opportunities for communities in northern Saskatchewan.

  Work to revise the 2007 Forest Management Planning Standard to conform to Saskatchewan's Environmental Code continued and is expected to be completed in 2015-16.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase our ability to respond to the impacts of climate change, while accommodating economic growth, through promoting investment in low-carbon technologies and innovative solutions

- The Climate Change Program seeks to advance Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth and our Province's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by developing a policy framework in 2014-15. Actions included:
  - conducted more detailed economic analysis to develop effective provincial compliance standards for Federal coal-fired electricity GHG regulations and other sector's performance standards, as they are phased-in by the federal government;
  - analyzed proposed GHG compliance options including the technology fund and offset system to determine their economic viability and effectiveness in meeting GHG emission reduction objectives;
  - disseminated information to stakeholders about successful Go Green Fund research and demonstration projects to promote technological innovation and commercialization; and
  - analyzed impacts of extreme weather events on the energy sector, in partnership with interested ministries, agencies and Crown corporations.

Maximize provincial-federal co-operation/co-ordination to minimize overlap and duplication through agreements and memorandums of understanding.

- The Ministry's Environmental Assessment Branch participates in the National Environmental Assessment Administrator Committee and continues to pursue environmental assessment (EA) process co-ordination agreements with Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. The purpose is to develop a network of EA practitioners from across Canada to improve consideration of environmental aspects during reviews and understanding of jurisdictional practices.

- Under the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Environment Canada, the Ministry of Environment's Technical Resources Branch successfully maintained the National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) program sites at Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Swift Current. The Air Quality Index shows that the quality of air in Saskatchewan is primarily excellent with no anticipated harmful effects. Saskatchewan participates as an active member of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). Through an MOU and a work plan with the CCME, this is an opportunity to share information and provides a venue to communicate federal, provincial and territorial concerns related to water, soil and air quality issues. At the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring workshop, the purpose of which is to exchange information and update stakeholders on programs related to oil sands, the Ministry provided program updates of boreal progress, including food, air, water and soil programs.

- During times of high wildfire activity, the Province of Saskatchewan utilizes wildfire reciprocal agreements such as the Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement and border agreements with adjoining jurisdictions to augment resources. During time of low wildfire activity in Saskatchewan, the program assists other jurisdictions with resource support through exports of people and equipment.

  In 2014, Wildfire Management provided mutual aid wildfire assistance to British Columbia, Manitoba and Northwest Territories in Canada and to Idaho to assist the United States Forest Service. Assistance and support were provided to Emergency Management and Fire Safety for non-wildfire response efforts in Saskatchewan.

  - The Ministry assisted the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport with prescribed burns in Saskatchewan at Duck Mountain Provincial Park and White Butte Trails by supplying staff, ignition and suppression resources and expertise. Staff also assisted with a prescribed burn on the federal Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range.

- Wildfire Management has extensive federal interagency representation including the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre and a number of working groups including the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Fuels Management Task Group, a national committee tasked with the development of a multi-agency fuels management strategy with the following deliverables:

  - survey the extent and causation of hazardous fuels across all fire management agencies and the extent of current fuels management programs and policies intended to reduce fuel hazards and wild land fire risk;

  - develop a strategy for sharing best management practices and forest planning policies and expanding fuels management initiatives across interested fire management agencies; and

  - engage industry and researchers in the development of unique alternatives to help mitigate costs of fuel treatment.

- Wildfire Management is participating in a government-wide integration of geographic data, with unified storage framework to facilitate internal sharing of data. This includes updating the architecture to the current version of Arc Geographic Information System. This work is ongoing.

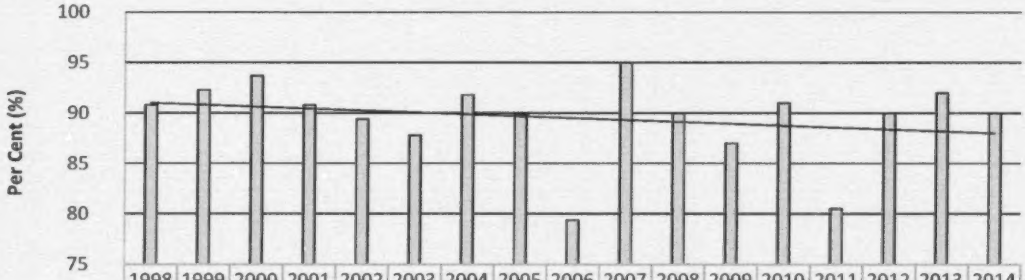
Performance Measures

Wildfire Management

Performance measures for wildfire operations are set to determine the success of both preparedness and suppression based on the program's capability of quick suppression for initial attack wildfires, as well as the capability for containment of wildfires to a manageable level in the Full Response Zone (FRZ). These measures relate directly to keeping expenditures for preparedness and suppression within forecast amounts. Historic analysis shows that large wildfires (those over 100 hectares) cost significantly more to suppress and that the cost expended for preparedness is justified in the results – the majority of wildfires in the FRZ are contained to less than 10 hectares.

Wildfire management programs have historically based performance measurement on response times to wildfire and containment of wildfire to within size parameters. Wildfire agencies worldwide are working on widening these measures to include outcome-based performance indicators that better reflect overall objectives. For Saskatchewan, the program now reports on performance measures that indicate the ability to successfully achieve the mandate of protecting values at risk as well as in assisting communities, stakeholders and resource users in sharing the responsibility for wildfire mitigation. The program is currently working on a metric that indicates the success of both the education and prevention and investigations programs in reducing the number of preventable human-caused wildfires.

Containment of Wildfires in the Full Response Zone to 10 Hectares or Less, 1998-2014



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2005-2014 Avg								90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
% Wildfires < 10 ha	91%	92%	94%	91%	89%	88%	92%	90%	79%	95%	90%	87%	91%	81%	90%	92%	97%
# FRZ Wildfires <10ha							170	182	278	264	415	373	300	190	230	287	234

Source: Ministry of Environment, Wildfire Management

The percentage of contained wildfires is a measure of how well the planning, detection and initial attack components of the firefighting program are working. Containing smaller wildfires minimizes the number of communities threatened by wildfire, while reducing the area burned and the costs associated with wildfire suppression. Containment of wildfires to under 10 hectares has a direct positive bearing on the number of escaped wildfires and consequently on the overall cost of suppression.

The percentage of wildfires contained to 10 hectares or less in the FRZ in 2014 was 97 per cent, which is above the 10-year average of 90 per cent. Of the 403 wildfires in 2014, 241 occurred in the FRZ and 234 were contained to less than 10 hectares.

Containment ability relates directly to operational preparedness, such as placement of resources throughout the FRZ in anticipation of wildfire starts, and the ability to divert resources to suppress new wildfire starts while under pressure to contain large wildfires and successfully protect values at risk.

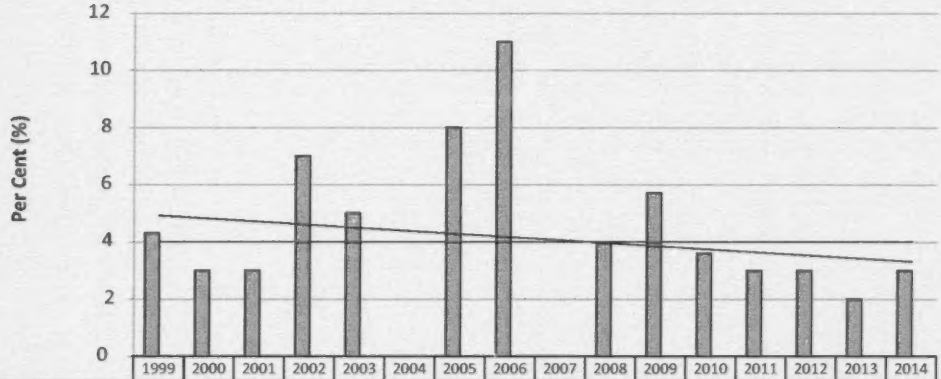
Large wildfires in Saskatchewan are defined as wildfires that reach over 100 hectares in size. They may or may not be escaped wildfires, depending on their location, values at risk within the area and the program's ability to suppress or contain them with allocated resources. When large wildfire suppression exceeds the available resources within the assigned fire area, Incident Command Teams are deployed utilizing provincial resources. Large wildfires in the FRZ have the biggest impact to the program in terms of cost and resource inputs.

The percentage of wildfires over 100 hectares in the FRZ in 2014 was three per cent, which is below the 10-year average of four per cent and well within the performance target. Of the 403 wildfires in 2014, 241 occurred in the FRZ and eight were greater than 100 hectares.

Historically, large (≥ 100 hectares) wildfires in the FRZ cost on average $1 million each to suppress, depending on the values or communities being threatened. They can cost up to $10 million. For the 2014 wildfire season, the cost of large wildfires in the FRZ was $2.5 million ($2.3 million in 2012 and $1.9 million in 2013) which is below the 10-year average of $7.1 million. Eight large wildfires occurred in the FRZ area, two of major significance and one costing over $1.7 million.

The performance measure for protection of values at risk in mandated areas outside of the full response zone centre on the program's ability to successfully deploy values protection units (VPUs) on threatened values. Since 2008, the program has been working on a benchmark for VPU deployment success. The five-year average is 98 per cent success in values protection unit deployment. This includes remote cabins and outfitting camps. When applying this performance metric, the program considers the application of FireSmart principles undertaken to mitigate the threat of wildfire.

Containment of Wildfires in the Full Response Zone (FRZ): Wildfires > 100 Hectares, 1999-2014



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
% Wildfires < 10 ha	4.3%	3.0%	3.0%	7.0%	5.0%	0%	8.0%	11.0%	0%	4.0%	5.7%	3.6%	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%	3.0%
# FRZ Wildfires <10ha							4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%

Additional Wildfire Management Performance Measures

Operations:

- six-year average of 98 per cent for Values Protection Unit deployment;
- containment in the FRZ between two and four per cent of wildfires larger than 100 hectares was three per cent in 2014; and
- 90 to 94 per cent of wildfires in the FRZ contained to 10 hectares or less; 2014 metric is 97 per cent.

Aviation Operations:

- Performance metrics for aviation operations focus on the ability of the program to assist suppression and containment efforts through aircraft availability and timely dispatch to wildfires. The program strives to maintain a 97 per cent availability of aircraft on alerts, and a 100 per cent average dispatch time within the hazard level set. For example, on a red alert hazard level, aircraft needs to be in the air within five minutes. For the 2014 wildfire season, aircraft availability was 94 per cent and average aircraft dispatch was 98 per cent within required times.

Education and Prevention:

- 209 of 403 wildfires were human-caused, making up 52 per cent of all wildfires in 2014; and
- the performance measure for the Ministry-funded community fuel management program was to complete fuel management projects for at least three communities per year. In 2014-15, work was initiated in one community, working with forest industry to complete landscape fuel break work for two other communities during the winter of 2014-15, with a budget of $85,000.
- Fuel management work in previous years included:
  - 2011-12: five communities with a budget of $185,000
  - 2012-13: two communities with a budget of $80,000
  - 2013-14: three communities with a budget of $85,000

Investigations:

- 94 per cent of the human-caused fires that required investigation were investigated; and
- 100 per cent of the arson fires that occurred were investigated.

Progress in 2014-15

Government Goal: Meeting the Challenges of Growth

Strategy: The Ministry is committed to meeting the challenges of growth by supporting training and staff development and a regulatory environment that is timely, clear and encourages innovation.

Key Actions and Results

Provide appropriate development and use opportunities on Crown resource lands through open and transparent information exchange for the review, approval and management of land use dispositions

- The Ministry reviews and assesses high-risk projects to ensure that adequate environmental and social safeguards are in place prior to approval. In 2014-15, the Ministry reviewed 30 applications for development and use on Crown land. Of these 30 applications:
  - 21 were non-developments;
  - two were developments as defined by section 2(d) of *The Environmental Assessment Act*; and
  - seven were changes to previously approved developments.

  There were 18 active files as of fiscal year end. In 2014-15, 21 lower-risk projects were thoroughly assessed and approved to proceed to downstream permitting without an environmental assessment, thus expediting economic development opportunities in the province. In terms of composition:
  - 80 per cent of new applications were from private industry;
  - 59 per cent of new applications received in 2014-15 were low risk;
  - number of applications submitted declined by more than half from 2012 to 2014;
  - nearly half of new non-development applications were from the oil and gas sector; and
  - close to one third of active developments were from the mining sector.

See page 12 for chart illustrating the breakdown of applications received in 2014-15.

Evaluate staff capacity and succession planning to optimize delivery of Ministry programs and services

- In 2014-15, the Ministry conducted a client capacity support review. This review across all 43 Ministry of Environment field offices assessed capacity needs and office readiness to maintain quality client service delivery. The process included equitable and transparent assessment guidelines and an inventory of current client support capacity across Ministry field offices. A findings report and recommendations are being developed for summer of 2015 for Ministry review and consideration. The recommendations will result in a strategic plan to achieve base and optimum levels of client support capacity.

Implement the use of a Ministry safety management system to prevent and reduce workplace-related injury and illness

- A key action in the Ministry of Environment's Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Strategic Framework for 2014-16 is to support and promote the Safety Champions' communications initiatives. Regular safety messages have been sent from the Safety Champion which have been well received by staff. A strategic framework roadmap has been developed to monitor work plan actions from October 2014 to September 2016. The Ministry has created visual awareness of OH&S program components and progress toward completing key actions.
- There is more discussion about workplace health and safety throughout the Ministry (a recent general survey indicates the Ministry safety program continues to deliver services appropriately). Both days lost and injury rates are trending down. Total lost days in 2014-15 fiscal year were 560 compared to 658 in 2013-14 and 1,205 in 2012-13. The total injury rate was 5.02 per cent for the 2014 calendar year compared to 6.64 per cent in 2013 and 8.34 per cent in 2012.

Provide effective protection for and maintain Boreal Caribou populations and habitat in the province

- Building on the five-year Boreal Caribou directed studies plan in 2014-15, the Ministry completed a range assessment to summarize the current habitat and population status for Woodland Caribou in the Boreal Plain Conservation Unit. This information was used to prioritize the central portion of the Boreal Plain for the development of the first Woodland Caribou Range Plan. The range plan will outline how resource and land use activities will be managed over space and time to ensure that critical habitat is protected. The central range plan has been initiated, with discussions regarding management objectives and strategies with interest tables representing industry and non-government organizations, First Nations and Métis.

- Landscape Stewardship also participated in the planning activities and work on cumulative effects management relating to caribou. Development of a range plan will provide effective protection in which stakeholders have been an instrumental part of its development.
- Climate Change examined infrastructure climate risks and adaptation planning tools in conjunction with the other prairie provinces through the Prairies Regional Adaptation Collaborative. The branch also collaborated with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to demonstrate the benefits of landscape connectivity for maintaining biodiversity and resilience in a changing climate. This model is expected to be applied in different regions of the province, including northern Saskatchewan.

Develop a Multi-Species Action Plan for species at risk in southwest Saskatchewan.

- In 2014-15, the action plan to address potential threats to critical habitat for multiple species at risk within the South of the Divide area (Milk River watershed) was finalized and awaits federal government approval for formal public consultation. Implementation teams achieved an operational third-party entity, South of the Divide Community Action Plan Inc., which now leads implementation of the action plan. Long-term direction and a formal system of third-party operational oversight will test multi-species responses to the federal *Species at Risk Act* requirements for critical habitat protection.

Support professional training and development

- The Ministry used webinars to communicate and train staff across the province on the Saskatchewan Environmental Code and client relationship management (CRM) software.

  Twelve training webinars were hosted for 448 participants in 13 different communities from Swift Current to Buffalo Narrows. Outside experts participated from Montreal and Ottawa. Eighteen different staff participated in hosting/contributing content. Training material was produced and delivered to empower staff to produce their own webinars.

  The same technology was used to enrich face-to-face introductory CRM training for staff. The classroom style workshops were enhanced by playing short video and audio clips of staff who are advanced users as they demonstrated how they use the software to improve their work. The six video clips contributed to a culture of learning and development by promoting connectivity and sharing. The supportive messages help make staff accountable to each other and build a network of learning support.
- Environmental Assessment promoted learning and development through mine site tours, to provide staff with appreciation of operational complexity of developments. Held during reviews and attendance at SMA and Saskatchewan Economic Outlook conferences, these improved understanding of industry trends and needs.
- To address public concern over the proliferation of crude oil being transported by rail and pipeline, the Ministry's Environmental Protection Branch enhanced its oil spill response capacity through joint training with industry and emergency measures organizations. Ministry staff attended shoreline and inland water-borne oil spill response training and Enhanced Incident Command training.

  This will result in a more efficient response from the Ministry and industry through a better understanding of roles and responsibilities between Ministry staff, local responders and industry.
- Forest Service is committed to providing all staff (forestry officer and office staff) the opportunity to attend verbal judo training; 39 staff were trained in 2014-15. Verbal judo provides tactical communications training to generate voluntary compliance while diffusing potentially dangerous encounters.
- Forest Service conducted a two-day forestry officer training session in 2014-15 which involved 23 forestry officers. This training is provided to ensure officer competency with inspections and investigations is maintained.
- Climate Change expanded its economic and financial analysis, modelling and database management capacity to analyze options for implementing the GHG policy and regulatory framework.
- Wildfire Management conducted 247 training sessions, which involved instruction to 2,041 students:

Wildfire Management Operations Training 2014	
Total Courses / Sessions	247
Total Students	2,041
Total Student hours	34,256
Total Student Days	4,282

- Saskatchewan, in partnership with British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and the Yukon Territory, operate an academy-style training program for new recruit conservation officers. Through a standardized training curriculum, graduates are field ready for employment in any of the participating agencies. The Ministry had 10 recruits graduate from the 2014 training program. As well, all permanent conservation officers complete an annual peace officer certification program for use of force equipment.

- Technical Resources delivered ground school and two flight schools to train government staff in the safe operation and use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS). Twelve RPAS pilots were trained from five locations, including two ministries. This will result in improved situational awareness of environmental conditions including hazardous spills and railcar fires. Long-term potential of this equipment includes reduced risks to staff that might otherwise be placed in dangerous situations (e.g. survey of collapsing coal mine sites) and the ability to reduce the costs of collection of environmental monitoring and enforcement information by reducing required hazardous travel times to remote sites (e.g. shoreline alteration permits and baiting stations).

Strategy: Impacts on the environment are minimized

Key Actions and Results

Ensure that development and industrial activity proceed in a manner that protects the environment and human health and safety through environmental assessment and management of industrial sites and compliance activities, including protection of source water through the monitoring of industrial facilities and compliance programs

- Reports for mining and industrial facilities such as annual and monitoring reports are reviewed by Environmental Protection staff to ensure source water protection. Where impacts occur, Ministry officials advise clients to activate remediation measures or carry out additional monitoring. Approximately 152 industrial facilities have assigned staff for regulatory oversight. Through report monitoring, staff are able to ensure source water protection through review of the monitoring data and other reported parameters.
- In 2014-15, 106 compliance inspections were conducted at mining and industrial facilities. Action items and recommendations were issued following inspections with timelines for completion for higher-risk issues. Compliance actions are taken where clients failed to meet legislative requirements. Environmental protection officers ensure clients follow up on compliance issues and carry out the recommendations and action items identified during the inspections.

  Environmental Protection conducts inspections over and above mining and industrial facilities and those inspections can be found in the following table.

Summary of all Compliance Inspections, 2014-15

Type of Inspection	2014-15
Mining/Industrial Assigned Operating Facilities (includes industrial landfills and landfarms)	106
Decommissioning and Reclamation: Mining or Industrial	11
Reclamation - Impacted Sites	4
Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Storage	3
Other/Miscellaneous	11
Private Landfills and Transfer Stations	2
Municipal Landfills	130
Total Number of Inspections	**267**

The outcome is increased compliance and promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources while enhancing economic and social benefits. Environmental Protection responded to 991 calls related to industrial-related activities in 2014-15.

The provision of safe drinking water at industrial facilities is ensured through inspections, monitoring and reporting. Water and wastewater monitoring results are reviewed on an ongoing basis and staff follow-up on any notifications that clients are responsible to report. These activities ensure that all persons have access to safe drinking water including those working at large industrial facilities producing their own potable water.

In 2014-15, 25 potable/hygienic water inspections were carried out at mining and industrial-related facilities. Precautionary drinking water advisories were issued to industrial sites when the potential for water quality has been compromised. A Waterworks Incident Plan Guideline for industrial sites was developed to support clients in developing water incident plans for potable water incidents.

- In 2014-15, Compliance and Field Services dedicated 4,300 hours to Water Security Agency compliance and enforcement activities. There were 76 compliance and enforcement actions for Water Security Agency files compared to 18 in 2013-14.
- Environmental Assessment initiated the development of Conditions Management System (CMS) for Environmental Conditions of approval. This is aligned with the Ministry's compliance management framework. Once complete and implemented, the CMS is anticipated to improve the detection of non-compliance of EA conditions of approval. In 2014-15, there was 100 per cent compliance of EA conditions of approval.

- Technical Resources, Environmental Protection and Environmental Assessment collaborated to develop environmental guidelines for Saskatchewan asphalt plants to replace the ongoing need to issue clean air permits to individual asphalt plants on a yearly basis. These guidelines were developed in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association and go beyond best practices related to clean air by including waste and water management.

Maintain Saskatchewan's air quality through airshed management, monitoring, use of good quality data, partnerships and national programs

- Saskatchewan is divided into six air zones to meet the Canada-wide Air Quality Management System. Four air zones are currently operating in Saskatchewan with Boards of Directors in place. The air zones provide an additional 12 continuous air monitors in Saskatchewan with more on the way. The final two air zones in the Prince Albert-Hudson Bay and Swift Current (grasslands) regions will be established in 2015-16.

- Saskatchewan successfully collected its second year of data at two monitoring sites that are part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). Saskatchewan has two internationally recognized and defensible sites collecting wet deposition data at Cactus Lake and Hudson Bay. The Ministry is expanding the program in 2015-16 by adding Weyburn, Fox Valley and Buffalo Narrows to the NADP network.

- The Ministry, along with the Ministry of Health, Saskatoon Health Region, University of Saskatchewan Airways Research Group, Western Yellowhead Air Management Zone and the City of Saskatoon began a one-year air quality study in 2014. The Saskatchewan Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory is monitoring at four locations across the City of Saskatoon and 20 passive monitoring sites were set up. The field sampling program will be completed by the end of August 2015 with final study results released in 2016.

- In 2014-15, the Ministry's Technical Resources Branch conducted a specialized air quality study in southeast Saskatchewan to determine the different types of volatile organic compound levels in the region. Four months of summer and winter data was collected. Preliminary results are being discussed with the state of North Dakota and the University of Texas.

Technical Resources participates in a number of working groups including the Acid Deposition Assessment Group and the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association. Saskatchewan's interests are being heard and reflected where possible to ensure protection of the environment, in particular, trans-boundary air emissions.

Performance Measures

Air Quality Index

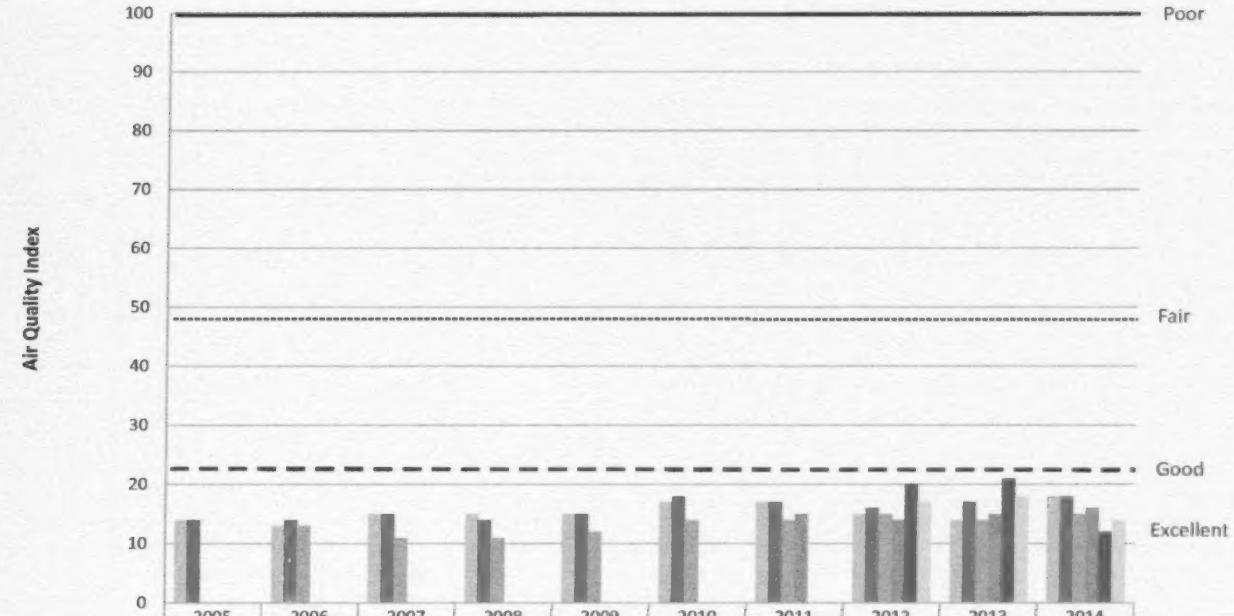
The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a communications tool designed to describe the general air quality in urban areas by transforming ambient measurements of sulphur dioxide (So_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulates into a single number and descriptive term that represents the measured quality of air. The AQI is also used to monitor long-term trends in air quality. Measuring and evaluating urban air quality is an important step in meeting the Ministry of Environment's objective of ensuring clean air. Maintaining air quality is fully aligned with the Ministry's strategies to enhance environmental protection, improve air quality and improve transparency and accountability.

The Ministry has established air monitoring stations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current, Buffalo Narrows and North Battleford and has divided the province into six air zones to meet Canada-wide Air Quality Management System requirements.

The AQIs for Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current, North Battleford and Buffalo Narrows have consistently rated as good to excellent and there has been a relatively stable trend in this measure. The AQI in northern communities would be expected to be higher than in the south due to higher background ozone levels, higher particulate matter levels due to forest fires and human-caused emissions from open and wood stove burning sources.

The index summary graph on the next page provides the AQI for those stations that are a part of the National Air Pollution Surveillance Program.

Annual Air Quality Index ratings for Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current, Buffalo Narrows and North Battleford, 2005-2014



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Regina	14	13	15	15	15	17	17	15	14	18
Saskatoon	14	14	15	14	15	18	17	16	17	18
Prince Albert		13	11	11	12	14	14	15	14	15
Swift Current							15	14	15	16
Buffalo Narrows								20	21	12
North Battleford								17	18	14

Source: Ministry of Environment, Technical Resources

The indicator shows that air quality in Saskatchewan is primarily excellent with no anticipated harmful effects. The AQIs for Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Swift Current have consistently rated good to excellent and there has been a relatively stable trend in this measure. The slightly elevated levels in 2010, 2011 and 2014 for Regina and Saskatoon are due to higher particulate matter levels caused by forest fire activity in the province and in other parts of the country. Forest fire smoke results in short-term poor air quality and consequently the AQI is slightly higher than what is typically recorded. A noticeable decrease in the AQI was recorded in 2014 compared to 2013 at the Buffalo Narrows location. This was due to a software problem with the $PM_{2.5}$ sampler with data being lost. A predicted AQI would have been closer to 2013 values.

Data for all sites is available at: environment.gov.sk.ca/airqualityindex.

The key risks to the AQI reported at the stations comes from both natural sources (such as forest fires) and from human-caused sources (such as open burning or air contaminants from industrial sources).

The Ministry will continue using the AQI to rank the province's air quality as a tool in protecting the health of people and the environment from potential degraded air quality. Other provinces are making the transition to the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI), which will have greater focus on human health.

Ensure public safety by focusing wildfire suppression activity on protecting people as the highest priority through continued implementation of wildfire management strategies, including an aerial fleet renewal plan for better response to threats of wildfire, and to work with stakeholders to understand, prepare for, and take responsibility to protect themselves from the risks of wildfire, in order to ensure the safety and security of people, communities and public and industry infrastructure

- In 2014-15, there were 403 wildfires with 343,430 hectares burned. There was one community evacuation at Stanley Mission (Lagoon Fire). Overall, human-caused wildfire numbers continue to decrease when compared to human activity on the landscape.
- The Wildfire Integrated Information Network (WIIN) system continues to evolve, integrating output reporting into the system. 2014-15 was the second year of Detection Center operation. The tower camera system continues to evolve and provides wildfire monitoring services as a cost-effective way to manage not only peak season wildfire starts, but also during early or late wildfire seasons, when towers were traditionally not staffed before camera installation.
- No values were lost at the Lagoon Fire, (Stanley Mission) due to a fuel management project along the community border with the provincial forest. The intention is to continue with the fuel management program in at least three communities per year. In 2014-15, Wildfire Management contracted and carried out fuel management work in one community. Wildfire management worked with the forest industry to complete landscape fuel break work for two other communities during the winter of 2014-15. A case study was written on how prevention activity such as the fuel treatment area helped to protect Stanley Mission from a 2014 season wildfire.
- Wildfire Management continues to work with students from the University of Saskatchewan's Renewable Resource Management program on creating performance measurements for the Education and Prevention Unit.
- The Fire Awareness Campaign goals are to prevent unwanted human-caused wildfires and to increase the resiliency of individuals, communities and businesses when wildfire incidents do occur. The Fire Awareness Campaign advertising plan focused on five themes as follows:
  - spring and fall burning;
  - recreational campfire;
  - residential property protection;
  - First Nations fire awareness; and
  - general fire awareness.
- In total, 12 public wildfire education presentations were delivered to community groups, Saskatchewan Outfitters Association members and First Nations community leaders who attended the First Nations Emergency Management Forum.
- As part of the FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program, 44 individuals received training and seven community level FireSmart assessments and related recommendations were completed.
- The Smokey Bear program is designed to educate individuals on the important role that wildfire plays in the Boreal Forest ecosystem. Smokey Bear made a total of 5,421 contacts in 2014, including 24 schools, 20 visits to provincial parks, two libraries and 10 special events.
- Wildfire Management continues to be involved in the Saskatchewan Resource Ranger Program (SRR). There were 58 graduates from six communities in 2014. Wildfire Management provided direct funding to SRR students who participated in the program by paying 40 hours of wages for successfully completing the Basic Fire Training Course.
- Additional education opportunities include a contract with the Saskatchewan Forestry Association to create six FireSmart-related lesson plans that meet Saskatchewan school curriculum requirements and funding support provided to Partners in Protection Canada as part of a national initiative to develop a third edition of the FireSmart Protecting Your Community from Wildfire Manual.
- Wildfire Management is engaged at the national level to introduce a Wildfire Community Awareness Day designated on May 2, 2015.

Ensure effective solid waste management via landfills, transfer stations and recycling programs

- The Ministry continues to regulate 727 waste management sites (505 are active and 222 closed). In 2014-15:
  - 130 municipal, two private and six industrial inspections were completed;
  - 62 closed sites were inspected;
  - 36 unauthorized burning events were responded to;
  - 101 operating sites had non-compliance identified;
  - 44 per cent of the operating sites achieved compliance;

- 77 per cent of the closed sites had non-compliance identified; and
- 22 unauthorized disposal sites were identified.

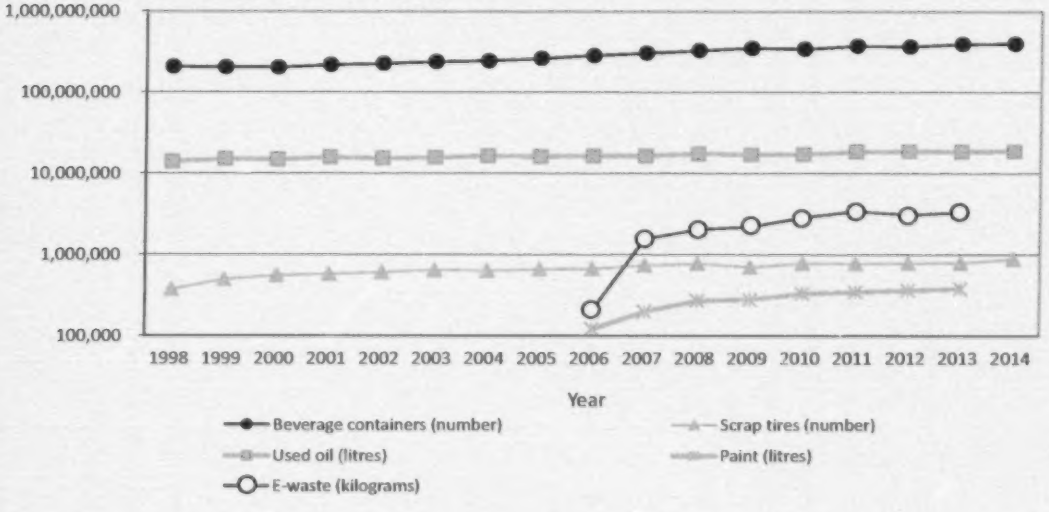
- Stakeholder education and guidance documents are increasing knowledge on waste management requirements and process. Clarification is being provided to resolve misunderstandings and confusion regarding the current requirements. In 2014-15, six regional waste management education sessions were held and guidance sheets were developed to help clients understand the process and requirements for landfill and transfer station construction, operation and decommissioning.
- The Ministry continues to make progress on ensuring the inventory of waste management sites is accurate and updated. Continued efforts to undertake inspections and follow up on non-compliance ensures that the potential impact to soil, air and water is reduced and safety of the public is maintained.
- The Ministry currently manages the following stewardship programs:
  - SARCAN;
  - Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (used oil);
  - Electronic Products Recycling Association (waste electronics);
  - Waste paint; and
  - Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation (SSTC).
- The Ministry is working through the recent amendments to the Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) and will re-launch MMRP in 2015. An agriculture plastics stewardship program focusing on grain bags is also under development. The ministries of Environment and Agriculture are working together to engage producers and manufacturers on developing a program.

Performance Measures

Recycling Rates

Recycling is an indicator of the public commitment to waste minimization and indicates shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. The Ministry of Environment administers the enabling regulations for four industry-led stewardship programs and oversees a fifth program, the Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program, through a contract with SARCAN, the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres' recycling division. The recycling indicators report on the actions of the Ministry and its stewardship programs in preventing and reducing risks to human health, the environment and to expanding solid waste management and recycling programs in the province.

Recycling Rates, 1998-2014



Sources: Third party organizations annual reports (Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program, Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Management Program, Saskatchewan Used Oil, Filter and Container Recycling Program, Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program and Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres).

Notes: Beverage containers and e-waste are based on a fiscal year. The fiscal year 2008-09 is represented by 2008. All other data is based on a calendar year.

Industry-led recycling programs report to the Ministry on an annual basis; therefore, performance numbers are combined within the entire year's reporting period. At the end of 2014-15, waste electronics, used oil and waste paint programs reported increases in collection rates. Rates of recyclable material collected are expected to continue to increase due to the growing economy.

Recycling rates are driven by market conditions, public commitment and good stewardship practices. In 2014-15, SARCAN recycled more than 396 million deposit containers. This represents a combined return rate of 86 per cent. SARCAN employs more than 600 people, providing employment for over 300 people with disabilities. SARCAN recycled its six billionth beverage container in September 2013. Through this program, the province collected $73.73 million in environmental handling fees and deposits.

The number of captured scrap tires increased from the previous year. The Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation (SSTC) collected and recycled 889,210 scrap tires in 2014, from which 10,136,281 kilograms of useable material was made, such as landscaping mulch, molded products and other merchandises. SSTC has recycled over 20 million tires since its inception 16 years ago.

The Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corporation reported that it collected and recycled 18.96 million litres of used oil (up 1.2 per cent from 2013), 440,000 kilograms of plastic oil containers (up 6.3 per cent), and 2.09 million oil filters (up 1.2 per cent). Used antifreeze collection began April 1, 2014 and over 168,000 litres were collected in the last three quarters of 2014.

The Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program collected 380,664 litres of paint in 2013 and has recycled over 2,306,000 litres of paint since 2006. 2014 numbers are not available at this time.

Ensure effective management of impacted sites and hazardous materials (hazmat) response activities to minimize and reduce impacts to the environment

- As part of the overall commitment to results-based regulation (RBR), the Ministry developed a comprehensive data management system to record, track and manage spills and impacted sites.

  The Ministry's hazardous materials co-ordinators addressed 769 spills in 2014-15. These incidents have been recorded, tracked and managed through the Impacted Sites Database.

- A key performance measure was the compliance rate of responsible party reporting. Compared to a target of 50 per cent follow-up compliance, performance was exceeded where more than 70 per cent of all reports have progressed to assessment or corrective actions, and over 30 per cent of the reported discharges have been closed.

Ensure audit, compliance and enforcement of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, Ministry standards and legislation including partnerships with the Water Security Agency and Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

- Compliance with environmental laws and regulations is critical to ensuring that all people and organizations are held to the same standards in their use and enjoyment of the province's natural resources and to ensuring that our resources are available for future generations. Collaborative compliance planning at an enterprise level minimizes duplication of efforts and maximizes coverage of high-risk areas for compliance and enforcement services through the development of a Ministry compliance and enforcement plan. The plan takes into account inter-ministerial and agency partnerships such as the pilot arrangement between Compliance Audit and the Water Security Agency.

- Compliance rates have improved in all sectors since 2009-10, which may be directly correlated with the Ministry of Environment's full suite of tools to encourage compliance with requirements established by law. There are three major components:

  - education and awareness activities inform the public, stakeholders and industry of requirements and expectations. Education and awareness tools include brochures, posters, advertisements and news releases. The Ministry is working with multiple stakeholders, industry and the public to increase understanding and awareness of environmental impacts;

  - compliance assurance is achieved through permit and lease conditions, performance bonds and other economic instruments. Inspections are used to detect non-compliance at an early stage so that it can be corrected with minimal impact. The RBR model will enhance these activities through the development of standards, best practices and the code to guide the public, resource users, stakeholders and industry; and

  - compliance and enforcement activities can include surveillance, special investigations and intelligence analysis. Actions to address violations can range from arrests, seizures, court orders and prosecution to the use of alternative measures and innovative sentencing.

- The Ministry's Compliance and Field Services Branch tracks the number of field contacts against the number of those contacts that are found in compliance with regulations. From this data, the following compliance rates by activity are:

- wildlife – 86.6 per cent;
- sport fisheries – 89.2 per cent;
- commercial fish – 95.1 per cent;
- environmental protection – 67.2 per cent;
- lands and mineral exploration – 82.3 per cent; and
- forestry – 75.6 per cent.

- Overall, there were in excess of 60,000 contacts made by conservation officers in the field, resulting in 5,476 warnings and 1,328 charges.

Through enterprise approaches with other ministries and governments, protect the pristine waters of the northern boreal watersheds from the impacts of development through baseline assessment, monitoring for change and assessment of risks as well as establishing thresholds necessary for development

- The five-year Boreal Watershed Initiative was established in 2011-12 to assess and maintain the ecological integrity of Saskatchewan's northern watersheds. The project looks at identifying regional environmental responses to multiple land uses. The results of the Boreal Watershed Initiative will form the scientific basis for measuring the sensitivity of the ecosystems to development in the region. The initiative comprises seven priority or thematic study areas: water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, air quality, soil quality, terrestrial ecosystem health, terrestrial biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Information gathered will help support the Provincial Growth Agenda of quality of life and identify the importance of environmental thresholds.
- Highlights of research work carried out in 2014-15 include:
  - Boreal and Taiga Eco-zones soil survey; a joint project with Trent University and the University of Saskatchewan. In 2014-15, geographic information systems (GIS) technology was used to produce an interactive map with links to chemistry, soil quality index, photos and description of vegetation communities. Work on dynamic hydro-geochemical modeling of lake and soil response to acidification and assessment of critical loads of nitrogen will continue in 2015-16;
  - in partnership with researchers at Environment Canada and the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Group, research was conducted through a survey on mercury in bird eggs as a measure of environmental conditions of watersheds. Approximately 90 eggs in total were sampled at five lakes across the province;
  - as part of a Saskatchewan and United States joint study on the blood chemistry of loons, seven loons were captured, sampled and released. Blood chemistry showed no anomalous concentrations of mercury;
  - in partnership with researchers from Biodiversity Research Institute and the United States, the Ministry conducted lake sediment coring to examine the aquatic biota and stable isotopes preserved in the lake sediment records in regions within and outside of the emissions plume. This improves the basis for biological monitoring indicators and their relationship to water chemistry;
  - research is continuing on a program to examine dragonflies as early warning indicators of wetlands. Dragonflies are effective ecological indicators across the full spectrum of aquatic habitat types. They reflect the state of the environment, respond to impacts at a variety of scales and are a useful umbrella species. Moreover, dragonflies have a well-established record in each of the bio-indicator categories of detecting ecological shifts and environmental change. The completed report, A Proposal to Consider the Suitability of Dragonflies (Odonata) as Ecological Indicators of Freshwater Systems in Northern Saskatchewan, will determine impact questions;
  - the Ministry is working jointly with the Water Security Agency to deliver a sampling program on benthic macro-invertebrates as indicators of water systems in the north. This work is ongoing in the La Ronge region of Saskatchewan;
  - habitat disturbance maps and fire mapping that contain extensive information on potential impacts to the Boreal region (communities, industry, forestry, linear development) are currently being finalized in northern Saskatchewan;
  - as part of the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (earmp.ca) to examine human health risk assessment on traditional foods and consumption, community sampling and involvement included Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, Camsell Portage, Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation, Stony Rapids, Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation/Wollaston Lake and Uranium City. Results including water chemistry, fish chemistry, berry chemistry (bog cranberries, blueberries), mammal chemistry (barren-ground caribou meat and moose meat) indicated these foods were determined safe for consumption;
  - the Ministry is collaborating with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society to deliver programs in northern schools. To promote education and

awareness of water quality, the Ministry has promoted "spot sampling" from regional schools or communities using basic sampling kits while engaging local groups interested in science and the environment. Partnership schools including Rossignol School in Ile a la Crosse, Churchill School in La Ronge, Valley View School in Beauval, La Loche Dene High in La Loche, and Twin Lakes School in Buffalo Narrows;

- working with provincial partners, air quality modelling will help identify the movement of acidifying emissions from localized and long-range sources. This is tied in with the Alberta-Saskatchewan MOU and transboundary modelling exercise. Surrogate measurement of historic air quality using tree-ring analysis (dendrochemistry) continued in 2014-15. Sample sites closest to the Alberta border were sampled for Labrador tea and Blueberry species for Environment Canada. Trees are suitable to reconstruct the historical changes of environmental perturbations because the metal concentrations and isotopic ratios of their annual rings represent at least partly the chemistry of the environment (air and soil) at the time of their formation. Tree-ring data was compared with similar data gathered by the Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Group; and
- as part of the work on the Acid Deposition Assessment Group with Alberta, in 2014-15 acid deposition modelling was completed using Regional Lagrangian Acid Deposition model (RELAD), Community Multi-scale Air Quality Modelling System (CMAQ) and A Unified Regional Air-quality Modelling System for sulphur and nitrogen. The results of the nitrogen and sulphur deposition models are similar with CMAQ, but with a much finer resolution. The majority of the impacts are noted in Alberta rather than Saskatchewan and findings will be shared with Alberta to fine-tune the models.

Continue to expand, protect and manage sites within the provincial Representative Areas Network

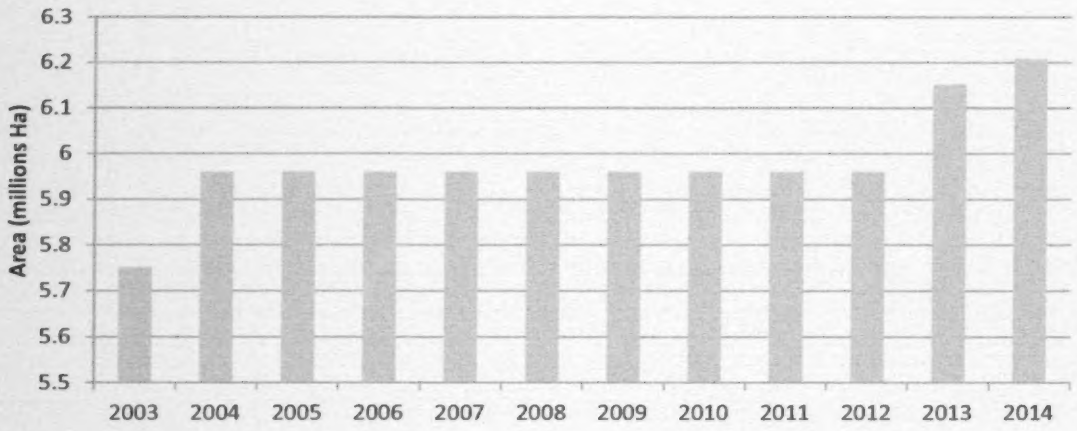
- Work continued to seek designation of additional protected areas in 2014-15. Currently 6.2 million hectares, or approximately 9.5 per cent of the province, is recognized under the RAN. The Government of Saskatchewan continues to work towards completion of the RAN which will result in protection of at least 12 per cent of the province. Representative areas act as reservoirs of biological diversity and as benchmarks for comparison with more heavily-utilized landscapes outside of the network.

Performance Measures

Number of Hectares in the Representative Areas Network

- The Representative Areas Network (RAN) is intended to conserve a representative and unique landscapes throughout the 11 ecoregions of the province. The RAN includes designated Crown lands that have been given a level of protection by virtue of legislation and private lands that are managed for biodiversity by agreement. The measure of the number of hectares in the RAN is an indicator of the province's commitment to supporting the protection and retention of native habitat and of long-term ecological health and aligns with the key actions of maintaining a healthy and productive environment and minimizing impacts on the environment. Establishing protected areas is seen in the international science community as a "natural solution" and a powerful tool against carbon emissions and possibly climate change. RAN areas also serve to help maintain biodiversity and act as benchmarks when compared to managed landscapes.
- Progress for the RAN in 2014-15 included additional hectares of Fish and Wildlife Development Fund lands and conservation easement lands. These additional lands added to the significant increase to the RAN in the Churchill River Upland and Mid-Boreal Upland ecoregions, in the previous 2013-14 fiscal year, with the designation of the Pink Lake Area Ecological Reserve and the Great Blue Heron Provincial Park.
- There are challenges in adding significant numbers of hectares to the RAN. In agricultural portions of the province, the vast majority of land is privately held and additions to the RAN are achieved in small quantities. In northern Saskatchewan, even though Crown land dominates, many interests must be considered and weighed to achieve a balance between conservation and economic development. The RAN is also being impacted by implementation of the Southern Conservation Lands Management Strategy. The strategy provides for the assessment of the ecological value of Wildlife Habitat Protection Act lands, making some available for sale to lease holders. As lower ecological valued lands are sold these hectares are removed from the RAN. Moderate ecological value lands may be available for sale, but only with a Crown conservation easement in place, thus retaining these hectares in the RAN. In addition, a number of sites have been identified within integrated land use plans and, as these land use plans are approved and recommendations for designation of proposed representative areas are implemented, hectares will be added.

Number of Hectares in the Representative Areas Network, 2003-14



Facilitate land acquisition by Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) First Nations and First Nations with specific claim agreements

- In 2014-15, the Ministry of Environment responded to 48 selections of private and Crown land. No sales of Crown resource land were completed in 2014-15. Since implementation of the TLE Framework Agreement in 1992, the Ministry has sold over 88,600 hectares (218,900 acres) of Crown resource land for approximately $13.3 million through 64 different land selections.

Maintain productive and biologically diverse forests through forest renewal and protection from invasive insects and diseases, such as the spread of mountain pine beetle from Alberta's lodge pole pine forests

- To assess industry performance against forest management plan commitments, government audits of industry-submitted regeneration surveys were completed in the summer of 2014 on all FMAs and most term supply licences (TSLs). The new Saskatchewan Environmental Code, which includes the Regeneration Assessment Chapter and Standard, has been passed and took effect in January 2015.
- Overall, 89 per cent of harvested forest areas in Saskatchewan have been successfully regenerated. The lowest proportions of successfully regenerated (SR) forests are the Island Forests and the Pasquia-Porcupine FMA areas. Most of the NSR area in province pre-date the establishment of FMAs and are the responsibility of the Government to restore these areas to SR.
- The Forest Service Renewal Program planted 2,253,626 seedlings including 1,549,196 seedlings in the Fort a la Corne Island Forests and 704,430 seedlings in the north slope of the Pasquia Hills. A total of 471 hectares of NSR lands were site prepared for planting in 2015-16. Regeneration assessment surveys were completed on 2,208 hectares of older plantations and showed that all blocks surveyed are regenerating successfully.
- Government renewal obligations are significantly being reduced in the Island Forests and the Pasquia Porcupine FMA with the re-establishment of commercially viable crop trees.
- The Forest Service Renewal program remains on schedule for its planned wind down of operations due to the completion of the treatment of NSR areas that remain the responsibility of the government.
- The Forest Renewal webpage (link below) describes basic forest renewal and provides information about harvesting and renewal levels in the province. environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=8dbdc6e1-26a1-4dd4-a7db-a6209da51dab
- There was no spray program in 2014-15 for spruce budworm. Monitoring activities have been completed to quantify spruce budworm overwintering larval populations. Samples were processed and revealed low numbers in priority areas. Spatial data and maps showing the extent and severity of insect and disease damage were completed for 2014-15. This data was used to decide not to implement the spruce budworm spray program in 2015-16.
- Aerial surveillance of insect and disease disturbances (including spruce budworm) was completed for the provincial forest from the Alberta to Manitoba borders and from the forest fringe north to the Churchill River. The annual survey focuses on detecting and mapping biotic and abiotic forest disturbances including:
  - spruce budworm;
  - jack pine budworm;
  - forest tent caterpillar;
  - large aspen tortrix;
  - eastern larch beetle;

- flooding-caused mortality;
- windthrow-caused mortality;
- foliar diseases such as spruce needle rust or aspen leaf spot; and
- any other less common damage that can be identified by air (e.g. pine needle sheath minor damage).

- The Ministry of Environment conducts extensive aerial and ground-based surveys to detect mountain pine beetles. In September 2014, the Ministry conducted helicopter surveys along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. These areas surveyed include approximately 1.6 million hectares of pine forests, extending 100 kilometres east from the Alberta border and from the southern forest fringe north to the Churchill River. The Ministry also conducts aerial surveys of pine forests located inside and adjacent to Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. In total, 287 trees were identified and removed in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, down from the prior year.

  Extensive ground surveys in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park locate currently infested trees which are marked for fall and burn control. To date, no mountain pine beetles have been detected in the northern boreal forest of Saskatchewan.

  In 2014, the MOU between Saskatchewan and Alberta was renewed for an additional three years. Under this agreement the province is investing money to combat mountain pine beetle infestations in east-central Alberta to deter the spread into jack pine in Saskatchewan's northern forests. Fall and burn operations in high-risk infested pine forests in and around Slave Lake and Marten Hills areas in eastern Alberta were completed by March 31, 2015.

- No new communities were reported with Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in 2014-15. Surveys of DED management (buffer) zones were completed in July and August 2014. All DED removal activities were conducted over the fall and winter months and completed by March 31, 2015. The number of elm removed in 2014 buffer areas was 252, which is higher than in 2013 (214), 2012 (162) and 2011 (92). The number of elm removed in parks was 120, which is less than in 2013 (132), but more than 2012 (32) and 2011 (72).

Enforce conservation standards to protect fish and wildlife

- The Ministry of Environment completed all regulatory changes resulting from final recommendations of the Red Tape Review Committee, including new legislation in 2014-15 that increases penalties for fish and wildlife convictions and expands the authority for scientific permits in order to ensure wildlife research is conducted responsibility. Further details on this legislation, designed to enhance wildlife protection in Saskatchewan, can be found in this report on page eight. Amendments to The Fisheries Regulations in 2014-15 will support compliance efforts to effectively respond to aquatic invasive species by strengthening the authority to respond to high-risk watercraft entering the province in response to the threat of zebra mussels. The list of prohibited fish species in Saskatchewan was also updated in 2014-15, which now includes the highly invasive Asian carp.

Progress in 2014-15

Government Goal: Delivering Responsive and Responsible Government

Strategy: The Ministry delivers excellence through services and programs that are effective, efficient and regularly evaluated.

Key Actions and Results

Continue to modernize environmental legislation and regulations

- On January 5, 2015, amendments to *The Forest Resources Management Act* were proclaimed, including the provision that an approved forest management plan is deemed to satisfy the requirements of *The Environmental Assessment Act*.
- A protocol between Forest Service and Environmental Assessment was developed to ensure the requirements of *The Environmental Assessment Act* are met and set out the roles and responsibilities of each branch. Combining the requirements of *The Forest Resources Management Act* and *The Environmental Assessment Act* eliminates a significant duplication of effort and cost to the forest industry.
- As part of the environmental assessment (EA) process, updated guidance documents were posted to the Ministry's website to assist proponents and stakeholders in navigating EA in Saskatchewan. This will result in improved quality of submitted documents by proponents. It will also provide an enhanced understanding of the EA process and will reduce delays in obtaining approvals in addition to providing greater legal certainty for developers.

Monitor and evaluate federal regulation and recommended compliance standards including targets for greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and Aichi targets for biodiversity

- The Ministry's Fish and Wildlife Branch has collaborated with the federal government and stakeholders in developing action plans and joint funding agreements that contribute to biodiversity conservation, and that contribute to the goal of conserving 17 per cent of the province's natural features. Federal collaborations focused on grassland conservation in the southwest region of the province as well as in the boreal forest. Additionally, the Ministry worked closely with conservation partners to secure the long-term preservation of ecologically important lands for biodiversity conservation and contribute to meeting Canada's Aichi biodiversity targets.
- Consistent with the RBR framework discussions, the Ministry's Environmental Protection Branch continues to work with the Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association and Environment Canada with respect to an approach for regulating GHGs from the potash sector. The average yearly potash sector GHG emissions from 2007 to 2011 were 1.2 megatonnes per annum. The focus is on performance indicators that would assess compliance at a facility level. Allocations and emissions would be based on actual fuel consumption and outputs of equipment during an operating period.
- Climate Change participated in federal, provincial and industry working groups to develop federal GHG performance standards for major industries, including ethanol, natural gas-fired electricity generation, pulp and paper and steel.

Commitment where appropriate to active enterprise-wide collaboration on initiatives such as the Boreal Caribou Initiative

- As part of the Boreal Caribou Initiative, the province is currently developing range plans for woodland caribou to ensure habitat is protected and population trends improve. While this work is underway, industrial proponents working in the ranges of woodland caribou require interim guidance on how to address potential impacts to the caribou and their habitat. Environmental Assessment participates as a member of the Woodland Caribou Working Group to ensure environmental assessment considerations and clients are considered during range plan development. Wildfire Management, Landscape Stewardship, Fish and Wildlife and Forest Service participate in the provincial Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy through various committees within the Ministry.
- Environmental Protection, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Economy, developed a project to identify risks and to address public safety issues associated with subsidence caused by abandoned coal mines in the southern portion of Saskatchewan. Approximately 33 abandoned coal mines were assessed by the branch. A process for managing new and existing subsidence complaints was developed between the ministries. Efforts have improved reaction to complaints that involve underground coal mine workings. Work has been undertaken to develop a map database of abandoned coal mines including underground workings in Saskatchewan Interactive Maps. This information has been shared with the Ministry of Government Relations to identify potential risks for new development proposals.

- Forest Service continues to collaborate with other branches and ministries impacted by the development of the Forest Scaling Information Management System (SIMS). In 2014-15, the project team completed change management assessments with other impacted branches and ministries to initiate the development of a business adoption and change management strategy.

Review, prepare and implement a modern Wildfire Management Act to better manage provincial wildfire activities

- New wildfire management legislation took effect on March 31, 2015. *The Wildfire Act* replaces *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982*, one of the oldest pieces of wildfire legislation in Canada. The new Act, with the accompanying wildfire regulations, provides a modern regulatory framework that ensures public safety while fostering sustainable economic growth. The new legislation increases efficiency by reducing administrative requirements. For example, burning permits are no longer required to burn in or within 4.5 kilometres of the provincial forest during the wildfire season, and have been replaced by a simpler, more flexible burn notification system with an exemption for small fires.
- *The Wildfire Act* was passed in the spring of 2014 but was not proclaimed until the accompanying regulations were developed. The new Act facilitates the development of wildfire chapters for the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, addressing topics including wildfire prevention and preparedness plans for industrial and commercial operations, and new buildings and structures where urban and forested areas meet.

  The new Act and regulations clarify responsibility for wildfires within municipalities, enhance wildfire prevention and preparedness, and provide clear direction for industrial and commercial operators within the forest.

Identify and apply Lean principles leading to efficiencies in the delivery of Ministry services to eliminate duplication and delays with existing administrative processes

- A new environmental assessment functionality has been added to the Ministry's Client Relationship Management (CRM) software to manage and track applications through the EA process. This provides an automated service where applications for an EA can be submitted to the Ministry via the external web portal. This will result in:
  - greater efficiency in EA application management;
  - greater transferability of files between staff; and
  - monitoring of EA process metrics in real time.
- On January 5, 2015, amendments to *The Forest Resources Management Act* took effect including the provision that an approved forest management plan is deemed to satisfy the requirements of *The Environmental Assessment Act*.
- The Forest Scaling Information Management System is a great example where Lean principles have been applied leading to efficiencies in administrative processes.
- The Ministry's Environmental Protection and Compliance and Field Services branches developed occurrence reports in CRM to support tracking of enforcement activities between the two branches. Use of occurrence reports is expanding to be utilized by the Compliance Audit Branch to assist in managing audit compliance activities. Compliance activities are effectively tracked while sharing of information between the branches ensures efficient use of resources.
- In 2014-15, the Ministry of Environment began Lean projects for alignment of Land Registry Management and Case Management programs to improve client file processing times and outcomes. To date, value mapping exercises outlined all of the land registry activities within the Ministry's Client Service Office. This was done to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the unit and to try to manage a large backlog that has been created over time. Benefits include improvements in how assignments, approvals, collateral securities and renewals are assessed, approved, and processed. This will result in increased public confidence, improved client service and improved client satisfaction for both internal and external clients.
- Supported by the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF), the program transfer of the Ministry's fish culture operations to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation was completed in 2014-15. The transfer moved the fish hatchery administration and operations and the fisheries enhancement program delivery to a third-party delivery agent, enhancing the FWDF private-public partnerships, increasing the opportunity for leveraged funding and moving 6.9 staff positions outside of government.
- The Ministry is undertaking a major project road map initiative and new IT/IM tools to deliver components of the results-based regulation (RBR) program and strategically identify future value stream mapping (VSM) events. Before projects are initiated and IT/IM solutions are applied, existing and new business practices/projects will be reviewed, streamlined and brought up-to-date using Lean tools. All major Ministry projects will be examined using this process starting with a review of Fish and Wildlife application processing and permissions management (APPM) permitting and the Crown Resource Lands System (CRLS). The review of Fish and Wildlife APPM permitting was held in August 2014 to be

followed by CLMS. Both of these projects require further consultation with affected stakeholders.

- The strategic use of Lean will enhance the effective and efficient use of resources and implementation success to move Ministry and enterprise priorities forward. By improving processes at the front-end of IT/IM development (and potentially avoid unnecessary development), the Ministry will deliver the best possible service to its clients, along with efficiency cost saving.
- In 2014-15, the RBR and Code Management Branch, as part of the Business Transformation Project, completed:
  - a soft launch of the Scaling Information Management System for Forest Service. Initiated communication with forestry stakeholders of proposed changes to the scaling process being implemented by the Ministry;
  - launched Phase I of Crown Resource Lands System (CRLS) implementation. This replaces a legacy application used in support of Crown lands dispositions with a modern solution for the ministries of Environment and Parks, Culture and Sport.
- Wildfire Management also conducted a number of Lean activities including computer upgrades, a review of billing locations to ensure accuracy and avoid duplication, preventative maintenance schedule, and testing of field use of bio-stoves by crews working in remote areas. The branch also reviewed the effectiveness of past reclamation methods, updated the reclamation manual and standard operating procedures, updated the reclamation cost calculator and determined how the new Saskatchewan Environmental Code will affect reclamation minimum standards for disturbances caused by wildfire suppression. Seven past wildfires were re-visited and reclamation assessed. More wildfires will be assessed in the 2015 season.

Removal of regulatory overlap and elimination of unnecessary red tape while maintaining standards for safety and protection of the environment

- The Ministry continued with the Ministry-wide regulatory streamlining initiatives resulting in the adoption of a flexible, modernized regulatory framework enhancing customer service, transparency and accountability. The Ministry continues to identify new opportunities to be covered under the code. In 2014-15, eight acts and/or regulations were amended as part of the regulatory modernization initiatives as well as the new code coming into force.

Ensure technical and expert review for Ministry staff and clients to provide assistance in environmental monitoring and client data interpretation

- Technical Resources continues to support internal Ministry branches (Environmental Assessment, Environmental Protection) and other government ministries such as Agriculture, Economy and Health (and health regions) with technical assistance and peer reviews.

Lead land use planning processes that inform development and resource allocation decisions supported by diverse stakeholders and user groups

- Currently there are 10.4 million hectares of Crown resource lands under approved land use plans with an additional 3.9 million hectares undergoing the planning process. In 2014-15, the Ministry's Landscape Stewardship Branch continued implementing eight approved land plans. These plans provide a framework to guide land and resource management decisions for more than 10 million hectares of forest land in northern Saskatchewan.

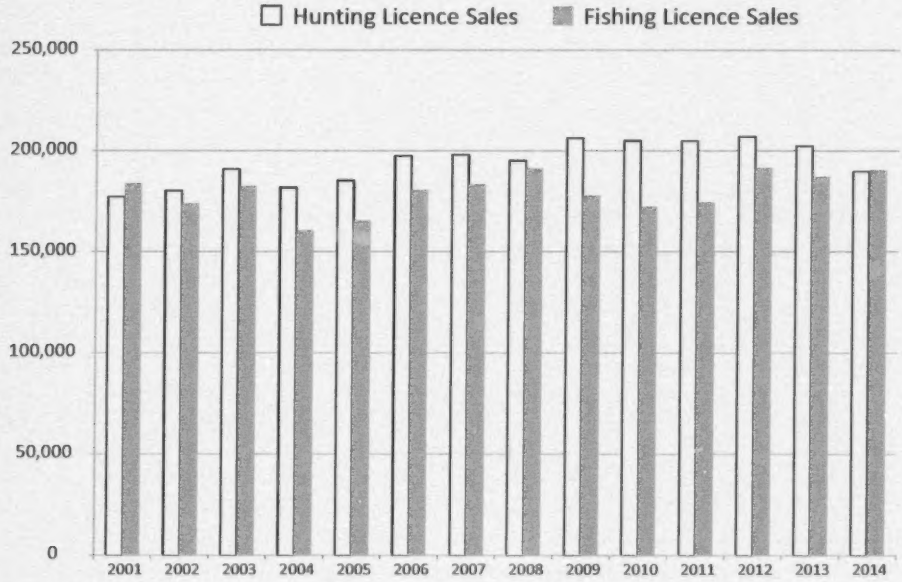
Ensure and enhance Ministry client service presence through channels such as the Client Service Office, online portals, in-person and telephone service, and develop customer service standards and measures to improve service in supporting the needs of individuals, rural and urban municipalities and businesses in Saskatchewan

- In 2014-15, the Client Service Office responded to 15,149 inquiries compared to the previous year's inquiries of 18,632. Seventy five per cent of the general inquiry calls were handled at first point of contact and there were 242 knowledge-based articles published in 2014-15.
- The completion of the online HABISask information data system creates a one-stop online portal for fish, wildlife and natural habitat information for recreationalists including hunters and anglers, environmental consultants, academia as well as resource users including trappers and industry, and the general public.
- HAL, the Ministry's online hunting, angling and trapping system, was implemented using a phased approach to hunting and angling licensing, creating improvements to client access and responsiveness to client needs. Advances in the system included improved client security, integration of the draw system into third party delivery and advancement of an online hunter harvest reporting system.

Performance Measures

Number of Hunting and Angling Licences Sold

- Hunting and angling are of social, cultural and economic importance in Saskatchewan. Licence sales are tracked annually and serve both as an indicator of short and long-term interest in these activities and as an indication of the importance of hunting and fishing to the economic health of the province. Measuring the number of licences sold helps determine the priority areas for population assessments and to manage the competing interests of users. As such, this measure aligns with the Ministry's strategies of enhancing environmental protection and facilitating economic growth.
- The Ministry has experienced high levels of participation in angling and hunting activities by members of the public in the past, which supports continued focus on wildlife and fisheries resources conservation and management. Moving forward, the Ministry is also tracking the number of fishing and angling licences sold online, to further improve its online services for the public, and will provide results in 2015-16.



Implement the use of a Customer Relations Management (CRM) software system to optimize service delivery in the Ministry's 43 field offices

- Compliance and Field Services staff entered 2,105 occurrences into CRM during 2014-15, and 2,158 general inquiry cases.
- Utilizing the CRM system, the Environmental Protection Branch responded to a total of 991 calls in CRM related to industrial activities in 2014-15. The branch provides technical environmental expertise on inquiries that are escalated by the Client Service Office.

Implement a forestry management fee structure, where appropriate, including timely and accurate collection of fees

- In 2014-15, Forest Service completed a suite of directives describing the expectations and control mechanisms of the Volume Control Framework. For 2015-16, a performance measure has been established to evaluate financial compliance of forestry companies to their financial obligations. A systematic well-documented process ensures accurate timber dues and fees are collected in a timely manner.

Review core programs to ensure efficient and effective delivery

- The Ministry has completed year three of a four-year core program review cycle. In 2014-15 program reviews made improvements to Environmental Protection Branch, Forestry Branch, and Technical Resource Branch programs. Recommendations for improvements focused on improving service to clients and improving efficiency. Program improvements will enhance compliance capacity, resulting in improved environmental outcomes for the benefit of the province.

  As a result of a core program review recommendation the Ministry transferred operation of the Provincial Fish Hatchery in Fort Qu'Appelle to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation in October, 2014. The agreement included the transfer of staff and fisheries programming through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. Program oversight, policy development and fish stocking plans remain the responsibility of the ministry. The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation can access federal and corporate funds that were previously unavailable to the ministry to successfully operate the fish culture station into the future.

Develop and implement a communications and social media plan for engagement of Ministry stakeholders including Code deployment and client services

- The Knowledge Centre that was launched in 2013 was enhanced in 2014 as a resource centre for understanding the new Saskatchewan Environmental Code. The organization of code-related materials was streamlined, making it easier for clients to find the answers they need to be in compliance with the new environmental code materials.

Continue to refine and improve client and public access to information including credible measurement, reporting and verification data on its website and online portal

- Environmental assessment (EA) applications are received through the online portal with automatic emails generated when further information is required from the proponent. Dashboards on the online portal allow proponents to monitor the status of applications submitted for review.
- Access to information in 2014-15 has increased with the creation of public participation guidelines that provide enhanced clarity for participation in public reviews. Additions include the creation of a self-assessment webpage that has reduced the number of low-risk EA applications submitted.
- An updated occurrence reporting system process provides features and functions to better manage the data related to Saskatchewan Environment Quality Guidelines (SEQG).
- Environmental Protection continues to work with the Government of Saskatchewan's Information Technology team to improve the portal experience for clients. Concerns are raised and brought forward on a regular basis to identify branch-related issues as well as enterprise functions that need to be addressed in order to ensure user adoption by internal and external clients.
- Forest Service publishes an annual public report regarding the status of renewal of Saskatchewan's provincial forest. This information is available on the Ministry's website and shows, for example, for each timber licence area in Saskatchewan, the area of forest surveyed for regeneration and the proportion that was found to be sufficiently regenerated. The table also shows who is responsible for renewing the non-sufficiently generated areas environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=8dbdc6e1-26a1-4dd4-a7db-a6209da51dab
- Work continues on the server that holds the Saskatchewan Air Monitoring Network data and Wildfire Management has developed new internal websites for completion by the 2015 wildfire season.
- Information about priority climate change issues and research and demonstration projects are posted on the Ministry website at environment.gov.sk.ca/gogreen. Climate Change staff participated in selected education and public awareness initiatives to raise the profile of climate change issues.

Implement clear and effective processes towards fulfilling the Ministry's legal duty to consult with First Nations and Métis communities.

- The Ministry of Environment continues to collaborate with the ministries of Government Relations and Justice to develop a new centrally-managed and delivered Government of Saskatchewan duty to consult process guide, support tools and training program. Internally, the Ministry's Aboriginal Affairs unit works with Ministry branches to manage complex First Nations and Métis engagement and duty to consult initiatives and to ensure effective Ministry programs and improved environmental outcomes.
- First Nations and Métis engagement and duty to consult strategies have been developed, co-ordinated and implemented in support of the Woodland Caribou Program Working Group and Technical Committee. First Nations and Métis communities are fully informed, participate and support woodland caribou assessment and planning and the program is informed by First Nations and Métis knowledge and interests.

2014-15 Financial Overview

The Ministry's approved appropriation for 2014-15 was $161.6 million. Total 2014-15 expenditures were $150.0 million, a variance of $11.6 million from the Ministry's estimate. This under-expenditure was mainly due to salary and operational savings associated with an expenditure restraint directive; delays in the implementation of climate change legislation, reduced Go Green grants and proposals; lower than anticipated reforestation contract costs; and savings associated with goods not received by year end.

The Ministry's budgeted revenue was $52.1 million for 2014-15. Actual revenue recorded by the Ministry in 2014-15 was $53.3 million. This variance of $1.2 million was primarily due to higher than anticipated exports of aircraft and personnel to other provinces for recoverable fire suppression and from prescribed burns within provincial parks; higher than anticipated environmental handling charges; an increase in real property sales; and higher than anticipated cost recovery from the Water Security Agency.

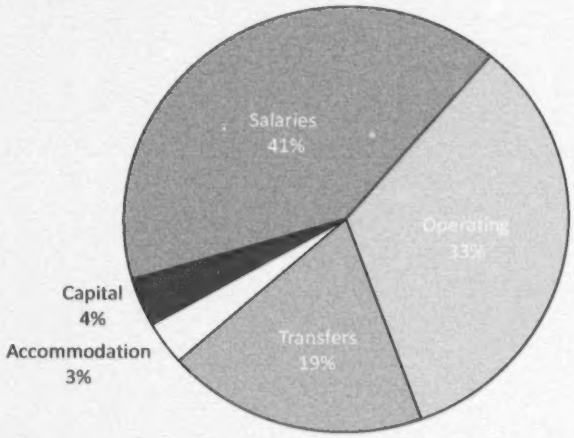
The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund. Explanations and financial statements for the fund are found on page 42.

Expenditures

The Ministry's appropriation for 2014-15 was $161.6 million, including projected capital expenditures of $6.5 million. The Ministry's total expense budget (excluding capital asset acquisitions) for 2014-15 was $164.1 million, including an amortization expense of $9.1 million. The total 2014-15 actual expenses were $154.4 million, a variance of $9.8 million from the estimate.

The following chart illustrates the allocation of the Ministry's 2014-15 actual expenditures between the various cost categories.

Actual Expenditures



The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 10 per cent.

	2013-14 Actual Expenditures ($000s)	2014-15 Approved Estimates ($000s)	2014-15 Actual Expenditures ($000s)	2014-15 Variance* ($000s)	
Subvote					
EN01 Central Management and Services					
Minister's Salary	47	48	48	-	
Executive Management	1,660	1,479	1,310	(169)	1
Central Services	8,159	9,486	8,893	(593)	
Accommodation Services	4,991	5,556	5,053	(503)	
Subvote Total	14,857	16,569	15,304	(1,265)	
EN06 Climate Change					
Green initiatives	-	-	-	-	
Green initiatives- SARCAN	-	-	-	-	
Climate Change Program	1,706	2,815	851	(1,964)	2
Subvote Total	1,706	2,815	851	(1,964)	
EN08 Compliance and Field Services	16,538	17,030	16,837	(193)	
EN09 Forest Service					
Forest Programs	6,432	7,004	6,461	(543)	
Reforestation	3,101	3,140	2,264	(876)	3
Insect and Disease Control	2,106	2,175	2,136	(39)	
Subvote Total	11,639	12,319	10,861	(1,458)	
EN10 Wildfire Management					
Forest Fire Operations	48,333	51,174	47,671	(3,503)	
Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations	2,573	1,700	1,559	(141)	
Forest Fire Capital Projects	8,051	1,200	1,065	(135)	4
Subvote Total	58,957	54,074	50,295	(3,779)	
EN11 Environmental Protection					
Environmental Protection Program	5,213	5,541	5,408	(133)	
Municipal	-		-	-	
Result-based Regulation and Code Management	6,455	7,030	6,337	(693)	
Environmental Assessment	988	1,202	1,114	(88)	
Technical Resources	3,330	3,613	3,339	(274)	
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	22,752	23,724	23,724	-	
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Operations	-	-	-	-	
Subvote Total	38,738	41,110	39,922	(1,188)	
EN15 Land				-	
Aboriginal Affairs	475	767	438	(329)	5
Landscape Stewardship	2,872	3,239	3,091	(148)	
Subvote Total	3,347	4,006	3,529	(477)	
EN07 Fish and Wildlife					
Fish and Wildlife Program	6,468	6,625	6,469	(156)	
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	3,746	3,804	3,569	(235)	
Subvote Total	10,214	10,429	10,038	(391)	

	2013-14 Actual Expenditures ($000s)	2014-15 Approved Estimates ($000s)	2014-15 Actual Expenditures ($000s)	2014-15 Variance ($000s)	
EN14 Environmental Support					
Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement	810	1,263	815	(448)	6
Data Management	670	829	734	(95)	7
Client Services	989	1,161	830	(331)	8
Subvote Total	2,469	3,253	2,379	(874)	
Subtotal	**158,465**	**161,605**	**150,016**	**(11,589)**	
Capital Assets Acquisitions	(9,577)	(6,520)	(5,539)	981	9
Capital Assets Amortization	9,369	9,061	9,503	442	
Non-spending Control Items	(4,199)		377	377	
Total Expense	**154,058**	**164,146**	**154,357**	**(9,789)**	

*** Explanation of Variances:**

(1) Under expenditure due to vacancy and operational efficiency savings.

(2) Under expenditure due to delays in the implementation of the Climate Change legislation and the salary and operational savings resulting from the expenditure restraint directive.

(3) Under expenditure due to lower than anticipated contract expenditures associated with poor weather conditions, bids coming in lower than expected and the deferral of a contract to 2015-16.

(4) Under expenditure associated with a capital project being delayed due to a contaminated soil issue that could not be resolved prior to year end.

(5) Under expenditure due to vacancy and operational savings associated with the expenditure restraint directive and final costs coming in lower than expected.

(6) Under expenditure due to vacancy and operational savings associated with the expenditure restraint directive.

(7) Under expenditure due to vacancy savings.

(8) Under expenditure due to vacancy and operational savings associated with the expenditure restraint directive.

(9) Under expenditure due to the delay of a project due to a contaminated soil issue, the deferral of a number of projects in response to the expenditure restraint directive, and lower than anticipated expenditures on the RBR IM/IT transformation project.

The following table describes actual funding provided to third party transfers in 2014-15:

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
Andison, Dr. David (Foothills Research Institute)	Grant to investigate and assess the capacity and accuracy of wildlife pattern data obtained from interpretation of satellite imagery	50
Benning, Nicole (University of Saskatchewan)	Grant for engaging northern Saskatchewan youth in learning about woodland caribou	45
Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	Caribou Habitat Agreement - operating grant	20
Boreal Air Zone Incorporated	Grant for the establishment of the Boreal Air Zone Incorporated	24
Brady, Allyson (Saskatchewan Environmental Society)	Grant for water monitoring at northern schools	49
Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)	Contribution in support of the CCME business plan	32
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	Operating grant - 30 per cent of revenues collected by the province on certain angling and hunting licences issued	3,569
FPInnovations	Annual membership to Wildland Fire Operations Research (ACFIRE)	10
Fur Institute of Canada	Annual contribution to maintain core operational capacity and administer program	14
Henderson, Norm S (University of Regina)	Grant to the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative to build a more comprehensive understanding of the dendrochronology project	25
Katepwa, Resort Village of, District of Katepwa	Grant for costs associated with a landfill fire	100
Matichuk, Adam (Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation)	Grant to support research regarding the interaction of fire and forestry disturbance on biodiversity to build sustainable management practices	16
McMartin, Dr. Dena (University of Regina)	Grant for the purchase of strategic analytical equipment and instrumentation for evaluation of watershed impacts related to agricultural water and climate extremes	25
Nature Conservancy of Canada	Operating grant - Species at Risk - South of the Divide Habitat Initiative	7

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
Nature Conservancy of Canada	Grant to support the purchase of critical habitat for species at risk located within the SOD project area	40
Nature Saskatchewan	Grant to support conservation awareness activities within the SOD region	5
Perras, Dennis (Great Plains Air Zone)	Grant for air monitoring	45
Raina-Fulton, Renata (University of Regina)	Grant to support research on tracing atmospheric transport and transformation of pesticides for the Prairie Agricultural Region of North America	20
Receiver General for Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' Secretariat	Contribution to Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM)	14
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres	Operating grant for the ongoing operation of the beverage container collection and recycling program by SARCAN	23,724
Saskatchewan Co-operative Fisheries Ltd.	Operating grant	10
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association	Operational funding to support municipal recycling programs prior to participation in the Multi-Material Recycling Program	500
Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board	Operating grant	35
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	To support the 2014 public awareness campaign - Moose on the Loose	10
South East Saskatchewan Airshed Association	Grant for air monitoring	20
S.O.D. Conservation Action Program Inc.	Operational grant to support the newly formed SODCAP in the implementation of the South of the Divide action plan	15
University of Alberta	Support research on the Western Boreal Growth and Yield Association for growth and yield information and modelling technology for boreal mixed wood forest stands	13
University of Saskatchewan	Operational funding for the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) - disease research	41

Grant Recipient	Purpose of Grant	Amount Paid ($000s)
University of Saskatchewan	Operational grant to support research in habitat selection and home range movements of moose in an agricultural setting	25
Western Yellowhead Air Management Zone Inc.	Grant for air monitoring	20
Wildlife Habitat Canada	Contribution towards the operation of the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee	4
Wissel, Bjoern (University of Regina)	Grant for project work under the Boreal Watershed Initiative	25
Other (Individual grants less than $4,000)		14
TOTAL GRANTS		**28,566**

Revenues

The majority of the revenue collected by the Ministry of Environment relates to environmental handling charges, hunting and angling licence fees, forestry fees and dues and receipt from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs. These revenues are collected on behalf of the Government and all revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

The Ministry's budgeted revenue for 2014-15 was $52.1 million; actual revenue recorded was $53.3 million. This variance is the net result of lower wildlife licence revenue, forestry dues and unredeemed bottle deposits than originally projected and higher than anticipated environmental handling charges, recoverable fire suppression revenue, real property sales and cost recovery from the Water Security Agency.

Description of Revenue	2014-15 Budget ($000s)	2014-15 Actual ($000s)	Variance ($000s)	
Own-Source Revenue				
Other Licences and Permits	17,400	16,266	(1,134)	
Sales, Services and Service Fees	23,192	24,870	1,678	
Interest, Premiums, Discount and Exchange	30	76	46	1
Transfers from other Governments	1,400	1,992	592	2
Other Revenue	6,437	6,694	257	
Transfers from the Federal Government	3,687	3,431	(256)	
Total Revenue Items	**52,146**	**53,329**	**1,183**	
Non-Revenue Items		19	19	
Total Revenue Items	**52,146**	**53,348**	**1,202**	

Explanation of Variances:

(1) Primarily due to higher penalty and interest on late remittances of environmental taxes than what was originally budgeted.

(2) Due to the large number of exports of aircraft, personnel and equipment to other jurisdictions for recoverable fire suppression and the recovery of costs from wildfire incidents in prior years.

Other

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) is a special purpose fund used by the Ministry to support habitat protection and management throughout the province. Revenues are transferred to the FWDF based on an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat licence certificates and certain hunting, trapping and angling licence fees collected by the province. Basic expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase of habitat and management and enhancement of habitat.

In September 2014, the Ministry signed a trust agreement with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation to transfer operation and maintenance of the fisheries programming as the first phase of a transfer of the FWDF to independent agencies. The second phase of the move will transfer responsibility for the management and acquisition of wildlife lands to conservation non-governmental organizations and it will occur in 2015-16.

The following table outlines summary information on budgeted and unaudited results for 2014-15 relating to the operations of the fund.

Audited financial statements will be available at gov.sk.ca/finance under the publications section of the website.

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund for the period ended March 31, 2015

(Based on unaudited figures)	2014-15 Budget ($000s)	2014-15 Actual ($000s)	Variance ($000s)	
Revenue	3,991	3,887	(104)	
Expenses:				
Fish Enhancement Projects	1,721	1,139	(582)	1
Wildlife Habitat Projects	1,787	1,355	(432)	2
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	250	283	33	3
Total Expenses	3,758	2,777	(981)	
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	233	1,109	876	

Explanation of variances:

(1) Due to lower than anticipated grant payments offset by higher than budgeted contractual services.
(2) Due to lower than anticipated grant payments.
(3) Due to higher than anticipated grants for Municipal Habitat projects.

For More Information

The Ministry of Environment welcomes your comments and questions.

centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

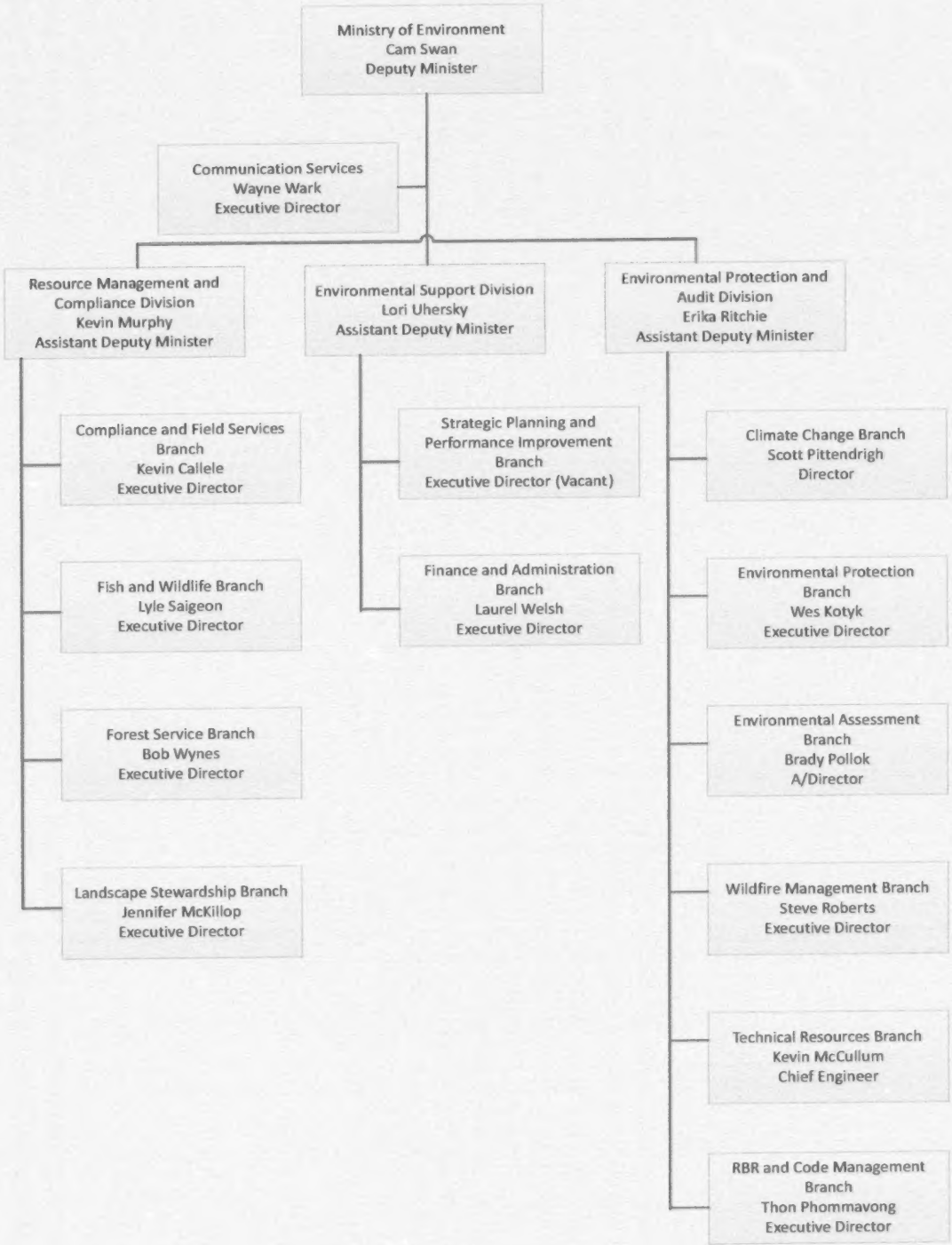
Toll-free in North America 1-800-567-4224

3211 Albert Street, REGINA, SK S4S 5W6

This annual report is also available in electronic on the Ministry's website at environment.gov.sk.ca.

Appendix A - Organizational Chart

As of March 31, 2015



Appendix B - Administered Legislation 2014-15

The Ministry derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from a number of Acts and regulations under those Acts.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister of Environment are:

- *The Clean Air Act* protects Saskatchewan's air quality by regulating emissions that originate in the province.
- *The Conservation Easements Act* encourages private landowners, conservation organizations and governments to protect ecologically sensitive lands and natural areas through voluntary agreements.
- *The Ecological Reserves Act* protects unique, natural ecosystems and landscape features through the designation of Crown land as ecological reserves.
- *The Environmental Assessment Act* provides a practical means to ensure that development proceeds with adequate environmental safeguards and in a manner broadly understood by and acceptable to the public through the integrated assessment of environmental impact.
- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* protects the air, land and water resources of the province through regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances. Water sections are administered by the Water Security Agency.
- *The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994* enables sustainable management of fisheries resources by affirming provincial ownership of fish, creating a provincial licensing system, and regulating allocation of fish resources, fish marketing, aquaculture, sport fishing and commercial fishing.
- *The Forestry Professions Act* establishes the Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals, an organization independent of government and industry, responsible for ensuring that its members maintain required standards for competency and conduct.
- *The Forest Resources Management Act* allows the Ministry to implement a framework for sustainable management of Saskatchewan's forest resources.
- *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* recognizes hunting, fishing and trapping as protected activities in accordance with the law in Saskatchewan and designates November 15 of each year as Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day.
- *The Litter Control Act* makes littering an offence and provides for the establishment and administration of a deposit refund system for various beverage containers.
- *The Natural Resources Act* (subject to OC 208/96) establishes the province's mandate to manage, protect, conserve and develop renewable resources in a sustainable manner.
- *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982* provides for the prevention, detection and suppression of prairie and forest fires originating in provincial forests, parks and on unoccupied Crown lands. It also governs compensation for conscripted firefighters and authorizes establishment and regulation of fire bans and burning permit areas. A new *Wildfire Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly and in force for the start of the new fiscal year/fire season. *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982* is repealed effective March 31, 2015.
- *The Protection of the Wild Ponies of the Bronson Forest Act* provides protection for the wild ponies of the Bronson Forest.
- *The Provincial Lands Act* creates authority for the management and transfer of Crown lands. This Act is jointly administered with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- *The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act* gives Cabinet the ability to place conditions on the transfer or lease of lands listed in a schedule to this Act.
- *The State of the Environment Report Act* provides for public accountability in reporting of environmental conditions and activities through the preparation and release of a State of the Environment Report every two years.
- *The Wildlife Act, 1998* provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife resources through the issuance and revocation of licences, the prosecution of wildlife offences and the establishment of annual hunting seasons.
- *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife lands and wildlife by preventing the sale and alteration of certain Crown lands.
- *The Water Appeal Board Act* establishes the Water Appeal Board and enables the board to hear appeals regarding water,

sewage and drainage issues.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency are:

- *The Conservation and Development Act*
- *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005*

  This Act has been given a new chapter number and a new name, please refer to: W-8.1 - *The Water Security Agency Act*
- *The Water Power Act*
- *The Watershed Associations Act*

New Acts that have received Royal Assent but are not yet in force:

- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* protects the air, land and water resources of the Province through regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances. This Act was proclaimed in October 2014 and is to come into force June 1, 2015. This new Act will repeal and replace *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*, *The Clean Air Act*, *The State of the Environment Report Act* and *The Litter Control Act*.
- *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as promoting investments in low-carbon technologies.

Appendix C - Key Partners and Stakeholders

The organizations listed below are considered the Ministry of Environment's primary partners and stakeholders because they:

- are provincial in scope;
- have a significant impact on the environment or natural resources; or
- are involved in major current issues or maintain a long-term relationship with the Ministry.

- Aallcann Wood Suppliers Inc.
- Advantage Oil & Gas Ltd.
- Aecom
- Agency Chiefs Tribal Council
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Agrium Inc.
- Akzo Nobel Chemicals Ltd.
- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
- Algonquin Power
- Alliance Pipeline
- AMEC
- Areva Resources Canada Inc.
- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan
- Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan
- Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals
- BASF - The Chemical Company
- Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs
- BHP Billiton
- BioMed Recovery and Disposal Ltd.
- Bourgault Industries Inc.
- Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant
- Bunge Canada
- Cameco Corporation
- Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
- Canada North Environmental Services
- Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
- Canadian Bankers Association
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre
- Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
- Canadian Energy Pipeline Association
- Canadian Energy Services - Pure Chem
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Canadian Forest Service
- Canadian Heritage River System Board
- Canadian Institute of Forestry
- Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre
- Canadian Natural Resources Limited
- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- Canadian Parks And Wilderness Society
- Canadian Petroleum Products Institute
- Canadian Plains Research Center
- Canadian Standards Association
- Canoe Saskatchewan
- Carrier Forest Products Inc.
- Cenovus Energy
- Certified Petroleum Services Inc.
- City of Regina Landfill
- City of Saskatoon Landfill
- City of Prince Albert Landfill
- City of Medicine Hat
- Claude Resources Inc.
- Clean Harbors Energy and Industrial Services Corp
- CleanFARMS
- Clifton Associates Ltd.
- CN Rail
- Complete Land Project Ltd.
- Communities of Tomorrow
- Conseil de la Coopération de la Saskatchewan
- Consulting Engineers of Saskatchewan
- Consumer's Co-operative Refineries Ltd.
- Crop Life Canada
- Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Eco First Solutions
- Edgewood Forest Products
- Electronic Products Recycling Association Saskatchewan (Sask. Waste Electronic Equipment Program)
- Emerge Oil & Gas Inc.
- Enbridge Inc.
- Encanto
- Enterprise Saskatchewan
- Environment Canada
- Envirotec Services Inc.
- EOG Resources Canada Inc.
- Erco Worldwide
- ERM Rescan
- EVRAZ Inc. NA Canada
- Federated Co-operatives Ltd.
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
- First Nations University of Canada
- First Potash Ventures
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Fission Uranium Corp
- Fortune Minerals Limited
- FPInnovations-Feric
- Gibsons Energy
- Golden Band Resources Inc.
- Grain Millers Canada Corp.
- Golder Associates
- Grassland Environmental
- Green Lake Métis Wood Products Ltd.
- Greenlight Environmental Consulting Inc.
- Gt Oilfield Services Inc.
- Health Canada
- Hub Bay Minerals
- Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting

- Husky Energy
- Husky Oil Operations
- Imperial Oil Ltd.
- Independent Forest Operators of Saskatchewan
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Interior West Fire Council
- K+S Potash Canada
- Karnalyte Resources Inc.
- Kensington Resources Inc.
- KGS Group Consulting Engineering
- Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership
- Koch Fertilizer Canada Inc.
- L & M Wood Products Ltd.
- Larson Hides Ltd.
- Legacy Oil And Gas
- Lehner Wood Preservers Ltd.
- Lloydminster Ethanol Plant
- Louis Dreyfus Canada Ltd.
- Malee Energy Ltd./Woma Energy Ltd.
- Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp
- Meadow Lake OSB Limited Partnership
- Meadow Lake Tribal Council
- Medicine Hat – Gas Utility
- Meetoos Forest Products Ltd.
- Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) and MNS Regions
- Milligan Bio-Tech Inc.
- Mistik Management Ltd.
- MLTC Resource Development LP
- Moose Jaw Asphalt (Gibsons Energy)
- Mosaic Co.
- Multi-Material Stewardship Western (Multi-Material Recycling Program.
- Namaka Farms Inc.
- National Research Council Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Nature Conservancy Of Canada
- Nature Saskatchewan
- New North
- Newalta
- Noramera Bioenergy Corp.
- Norsask Forest Products Ltd.
- Northland Power
- North West Terminal Ltd.
- North West Municipalities Association
- Northern Blizzard Resources Inc.
- Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association
- Northwest Communities Wood Products Ltd.
- Northwest Wildland Fire Compact
- Novitas Energy Ltd.
- Oilsands Quest Inc.
- Operator Certification Board
- Paper Excellence
- Parkland Industries Ltd.
- Parks Canada
- Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin
- Petroleum Technology Research Council
- Plains Midstream
- Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan
- Pound-Maker Adventures Ltd.
- Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative
- Prairie Pride Chick Sales Ltd.
- Prairie Mines And Royalty Ltd.
- Prairie Petro-Chem Clariant Canada Inc.
- Premier Horticulture
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Product Care Association (Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program)
- Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan
- Qu'Appelle Beef
- Rallyemont Energy Inc.
- Regina Fish and Game League
- Richardson Nutrition Holding Ltd.
- Rio Tinto
- Sakâw Askiy Management Inc.
- Sanitec Canada
- Saskatchewan Applied Science Technologists and Technicians
- Saskatchewan Archaeological Society
- Saskatchewan Association of Firearm Education
- Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres
- Saskatchewan Association of Resource Recovery Corporation
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Water Pipelines
- Saskatchewan Black Powder Association
- Saskatchewan Bowhunters Association
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
- Saskatchewan Co-operative Fisheries Ltd.
- Saskatchewan Eco Network
- Saskatchewan Environmental Industry and Managers Association
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Saskatchewan Falconry Association
- Saskatchewan Federation of Fly fishers
- Saskatchewan Forestry Association
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union
- Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund Management Corporation
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic Institute of Applied Science And Technology (SIAST)
- Saskatchewan Minerals Inc.
- Saskatchewan Mining Association
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Health
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport
- Saskatchewan Nature and Ecotourism Association
- Saskatchewan Outfitters Association
- Saskatchewan Parks And Recreation Association
- Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association
- Saskatchewan Public Works Association
- Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Association
- Saskatchewan Research Council
- Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation

- Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
- Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
- Saskatchewan Trappers Association
- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
- Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program
- Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council
- Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association
- Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board
- Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
- Saskatchewan Wild Rice Council
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- Saskatoon Tribal Council
- Saskatoon Water Treatment Plant
- SaskEnergy
- SaskPower
- SaskTel
- SaskTip Inc.
- SaskWater Corporation
- Shell Canada
- Sherritt Coal
- Shore Gold Inc.
- Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada
- Solid Waste Association of North America-Northern Lights Chapter
- SNC Lavalin
- South Saskatchewan Wildlife Association
- Southeast Saskatchewan Airshed Association
- Southeast Treaty #4 Tribal Council
- Stantec Consulting Ltd.
- Suncor/Petro-Canada
- Terra Grain Fuels
- Tervita
- Tolko Industries Ltd./Meadow Lake OSB
- Touchwood Agency Tribal Council
- Touchwood Resources Inc.
- Tourism Saskatchewan
- TransCanada Corp.
- TransGas
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- Vale Potash Canada Ltd.
- Vermette Trucking And Wood Preservers Ltd.
- Vista Mines Inc.
- Viterra Inc.
- Wascana Centre Authority
- Western Lily Wind Energy/Gaia Power
- Western Potash
- Western Yellowhead Air Management Zone
- Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd., Saskatchewan Division
- Whitemud Resources Inc.
- Wild West Steelhead
- Wood Preservation Canada
- World Wildlife Fund
- X-Terra Environmental Consulting
- Yara Belle Plaine Inc.
- Yorkton Tribal Council
- Zelensky Brothers

Appendix D - Publications Released by the Ministry

For the period of April 1, 2014 - March, 31, 2015

Environment

- 2013-14 Environment Annual Report
- 2013-14 Environment Strategic Plan
- 2015 State of the Environment Report

Fishing

- 2014 Fish Facts
- 2014 Stocked Waters Guide
- 2015 Anglers' Guide
- 2014 Angers' Guide – French

Hunting

- 2014 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide
- 2014 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide – French
- 2015 Spring Bear and Snow Goose Supplement
- 2014 Saskatchewan Resident Big Game Draw Overview
- 2014 Canadian Resident White-tailed Deer Draw Overview
- 2014 Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licence (HAL) System Fact Sheet

Land/Protection

- Crown Resource Land Sale Opportunities Fact Sheet

Wildlife

- Woodland Caribou Range Assessment and Planning in Saskatchewan

Trapping

- Saskatchewan Wild Fur Harvest and Cash Values 2014-15

Waste Management

- Solid Waste Management – EMPA
- Construction and Demolition Waste Management and Disposal Fact Sheet

Wildfire Management

- Open Burning Synopsis
- Best Practices for Open Burning
- 2014 Saskatchewan Pilot's Handbook
- 2015 Wildfire Safety Calendar